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Landowners stake claims in Samaria

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

Representatives of Jewish landowners from Israel and abroad converged on Nahal Te'aim near Kedumim yesterday to mark plots they purchased from Arab landowners during the past 20 years.

Kedumim local council head Daniella Weiss said the area consists of 1,500 dunams of privately owned land and 13,000 dunams of state-owned land that has been left uncultivated and untouched for at least 20 years.

The plots, Weiss said, stretch from west of Kedumim along the valley to Avnei Hefetz and Sa'alit. The privately owned land was sold by five Arab landowners from the region to Jews residing here and abroad, she said.

Yesterday, Alexander Newman, a psychologist from New Jersey, stood on the 38-dunam plot of land he purchased in the late seventies from Moshe Zar, one of the largest landowners in the area, who bought hundreds of dunams from Arabs in the area. Newman said he has spent thousands of dollars on lawyers in a bid to confirm ownership. The plot lies on a road north of the Arab village of Hadja, he said.

"There are no Arab houses, only some olive trees, and part of the land has been used as a dump," he said.

In addition Newman is the owner of 50 dunams near Barkan and has an option to purchase an additional 100 dunams. He hopes to sell these plots eventually, in 10 dunam lots, to Americans who want to build luxury homes. His dream, Newman said, is to build a home for his family on the 38-dunam plot.

Weiss said that settlers and landowners realized the urgency of action after the Wye agreement was signed.

"We have sent documents and requests accompanied by maps to the prime minister, the Defense Ministry and the ministerial committee in charge of the maps as well as to top lawyers to investigate the legalities," Weiss said.

Once all the plots are marked, work will start on access roads, she said.

See SAMARIA, Page 2

Neeman: Don't change inflation target

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Finance Minister Ya'acov Neeman yesterday urged that no decision be taken to change the 1999 inflation target this year and that only after a longer-term analysis of the market's performance should the cabinet think about raising the 4% goal.

He reminded ministers at a special cabinet session that this had been Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's advice when the subject was last debated in August.

Neeman offered similar advice on the reform of the Bank of Israel. No rushed decisions should be made until a public committee investigating the issue reports back to cabinet towards the end of December, he said.

An increasing number of MKs are pushing for the creation of a board of governors for the bank, as proposed in a private member's bill sponsored by Avraham Shohat (Labor).

Frankel maintains the nature of the bank's decision-making process should only be a part of a wider overhaul of the existing Bank of Israel Law, passed in 1954.

Full report, Page 12



Har Homa tour
Building contractors look at the plans for Har Homa during a tour of the site yesterday. Story, Page 2. (Brian Hendler)

Avital meets Sharon to protest suspension

By LIAT COLLINS

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon met last night with Colette Avital, the ministry's deputy director-general for European Affairs, to discuss the decision to suspend her for two weeks, and told her she must abide by the decision.

The meeting was held at Avital's request.

The suspension was ordered by Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur after suspicions were raised that Avital had leaked classified material from the ministry's Middle East Department to a journalist at Ha'aretz.

Asked about Sharon's instructions to stay home, Avital's lawyer, Dan Mirkin told Israel Radio's English-language news last night that Avital would turn up for work today nonetheless.

"I think that she has to disregard [the suspension]. My advice to her would be to disregard it... I hope that we're not going to see somebody trying to kick her out of the office."



Colette Avital (Brian Hendler)

The affair started some two weeks ago when material concerning Israel's possible response should the Palestinians declare statehood was faxed from Avital's office to reporter Yerah Tal. The fax was allegedly followed by a phone call from Avital's office.

See AVITAL, Page 2

Poll: 27% of teens have cellular phones

By HELEN KAYE

Israeli youth are more aware than you think. While only 9.8% of local youth watch the news on TV, 31% read the local news pages of a daily paper.

These and other statistics on media habits and lifestyle come from a nationwide survey by Target Group Index (TGI), a US-based research group, of Hebrew-speaking 12-18 year-olds, released yesterday.

Media statistics show that 90% watch 2.5 hours of TV daily, while 61% listen to 1.5 hours of radio, 70% read a daily paper. 78% read some kind of weekly and 57% go to the movies at least once a month, more than twice as often as adults.

The most popular daily is the Hebrew-language *Yediot Aharonot* with 52% of the readers, versus 23% for its closest rival, *Ma'ariv*.

During the last six months, 81% said they had read at least one book.

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NEWS

in brief

Little support for follow-up Holocaust conference

Few delegates yesterday at the international conference on Holocaust assets in Washington supported Jewish Agency chairman Abraham Burg's idea of holding another such forum next year in Jerusalem. Delegates in Washington said privately that such conferences were valuable in compelling their countries to confront Holocaust-era history. However, some nations said that after two years of conferences they were exhausted with the topic, sources said.

It also wasn't clear whether the Foreign Ministry supported the idea. "It is better for us if others fight this battle," was how one Israeli source put it.

Marilyn Henry

Poland: Israel failed to submit missiles for tests

Signaling further problems with an arms contract with Israeli companies, a Polish Defense Ministry spokesman said yesterday that Israel failed to arrange tests of its NTD missiles in November as requested.

Poland last year awarded the \$800 million contract to Israel's Rafael and Elbit Systems Ltd. to equip its Huzar helicopters in line with NATO requirements. Poland, which plans to join NATO in April, selected the Israeli companies over the US company Boeing.

Poland's Solidarity-led government has criticized the handling of the tenders by its ex-communist predecessors and demanded missile tests. It also decided to seek another tender for the integrating systems.

AP

Palestinians deny misuse of EU housing funds

The Palestinian Authority yesterday disputed a *Sunday Times* report asserting it had spent money earmarked for low-income housing on luxury apartments for wealthy Arafat associates. "I don't see any corruption in housing," Palestinian Housing Minister Abdel Rahman Hamad told reporters. Hamad said 90 percent of the buyers of 922 European Union-funded housing units in Gaza had incomes of less than \$600 a month. He acknowledged that buyers included some Arafat associates who returned from abroad. But he said the application process had been open and that apartment sales were carried out under joint EU supervision.

AP

UAE allows entry even with Israeli visa stamps

The United Arab Emirates is allowing entry to foreigners with Israeli visa stamps, an immigration official said yesterday. It began three months ago following directives from the Interior Ministry, the official said.

In recent years, Oman and Qatar established low-level trade relations with Israel and began allowing Israelis, as well as Israel-bound foreigners, to enter.

Kuwait allows British, American and French citizens to enter if they have Israeli visas in their passports and evaluates others on a case-by-case basis, an immigration official at the airport said. The other Arab Gulf states - Bahrain and Saudi Arabia - ban entry to anyone with an Israeli visa stamp.

AP

US supplies Clinton security equipment to PA

The US has provided the Palestinian Authority with mine and explosive detection equipment as part of the security detail in advance of President Bill Clinton's planned visit to Bethlehem and Gaza December 12-15, PA security officials said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Moussa Arafat, the Head of the Military Intelligence Apparatus, told *Al-Ahram* that the PA decided to form a Committee from the National Security Apparatus to discuss security and protocol arrangements.

Moussa Arafat added that a US security team will discuss the arrangements with PA security officials.

Mohammed Najib

Students arrested in nighttime protest

More than 10 students were arrested last night as protesters blocked the Giliot junction in Tel Aviv for over 40 minutes at the conclusion of a torchlight parade, a student spokesman said.

Earlier, informal negotiations between Moshe Leon, the director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, and a group of student leaders failed to produce any progress towards ending the strike. Earlier story, Page 5.

Aryeh Dean Cohen

Peace Now protesters arrested at Har Homa

Police arrested three Peace Now members who tried to block building contractors from touring Har Homa yesterday.

A group of about 15 Peace Now activists held a protest while government officials briefed some 40 contractors and representatives of groups interested in buying homes at the site on the terms of a tender to build homes for Jews at Har Homa. Police scuffled with the protesters, arresting Peace Now head Moshe Raz and two others and barring them from entering the site.

As Peace Now protesters squared off with police, five members of the outlawed Kach group demonstrated nearby, chanting, "Peace Now, a knife in the back."

Israel published the tender to build some 6,500 apartments at Har Homa last month. Contractors will now have a month to submit plans and estimates to the government.

"Our job is to build houses and sell them and even if it causes political problems, that's not our problem," building contractor Motti Louzon said at the site.

But other potential builders said financial and political pitfalls clouded the project's feasibility.

Palestinians say the construction violates international law and Middle East peace deals. They say Har Homa is part of an Israeli plan to cut off the Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem from the West Bank.

Israel says it has the right to build anywhere in Jerusalem.

White House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart has called the project "inconsistent with the spirit" of last month's Wye Memorandum.

Ground-breaking for Har Homa, known in Arabic as Jabal Abu Ghneim, led to Palestinian rioting last year and a stalemate in the peace negotiations.

(News agencies)

Donors conference raises \$3.2b. for Palestinian projects

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - Monday's international donors conference raised about \$3.2 billion for Palestinian economic development and infrastructure projects in what the US and Palestinian Authority called a major show of support for the peace process.

Among the pledges were \$400 million by the US, about \$500m. by the European Union, \$170m. by Norway and \$200m. by Japan, a US official said yesterday. A complete list of contributions is not yet available, he said.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright

called the pledges "a substantial achievement" that was "well above" the \$2.3 billion raised at a 1993 donors conference.

"The dividends of peace will become increasingly tangible and enduring in the lives of the Palestinian people," Albright said Monday evening at a press conference that closed the event.

"Our pledges today are evidence of the international community's firm commitment to help the Palestinian people build lives that are better, freer and safer, and to do our part in laying the foundations for a secure and prosperous Middle East," she said.

All US funds for the Palestinians go to

specific projects rather than to the PA. Albright told reporters that consequently, every dollar contributed by the US "is accounted for, and it is completely transparent." World Bank president James Wolfensohn also sought to assure reporters that contributions to the Palestinians are well-spent, saying that the institution's independent auditor is responsible for ensuring that programs are run effectively.

A four-way meeting involving Israel, the US, the PA and the EU that was to be held after the event to discuss water issues was cancelled when Israel refused to broaden the agenda. A planning session Sunday

night with EU envoy Miguel Moratinos led to the collapse of the Monday evening talks when Moratinos sought, at the urging of the Palestinians, to include a discussion on opening the Gaza seaport.

"It can't be that we'll prepare for a meeting on one subject and it'll be changed," Foreign Ministry director-general Aviv Shiron said, adding that the meeting was to have dealt with increasing water sources and improving water quality.

"We feel that if we reach an understanding with them, it should be honored," he said. "That's besides the fact that the experts weren't here to discuss the seaport."



To your health!

US Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala is welcomed by Health Minister Yehoshua Matza at Ben-Gurion Airport yesterday. Shalala is here to attend a joint US-Israeli conference on women's health.

(Ilan Ossendryver/Israel Sun)

US officials downplay Arafat J'lem statement

By HILLEL KUTTLER

WASHINGTON - US officials downplayed Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's statements on "occupied" Jerusalem. He had told a press conference following Monday's donor meeting here that Jerusalem's fate "remains the number one issue, particularly during the permanent status negotiations."

Arafat appeared to concede western Jerusalem to Israel, while making a pitch for Palestinian control of the eastern part of the city, saying that the peace negotiations over the territories are based on UN resolutions that apply to Jerusalem "because it's territories that were occupied in 1967 war."

"And when I say Jerusalem, I say Holy Jerusalem; that's the part that I mean," Arafat said. "Jerusalem will remain the item number one on the agenda of the permanent status talks."

Asked about Arafat's state-

ments, a US official said that Washington attaches no importance to them because Arafat's views on Jerusalem are widely known.

"There's nothing new here. I wouldn't read that much into it," the official said. "Everyone knows that in the permanent status talks, Jerusalem is at the top of the agenda for him. We've said it's a matter for negotiations, and that's why it's important to have permanent status negotiations."

The official refused to compare his own tempered reaction with the US' active campaign in recent months to convince Arafat of the danger of speaking about declaring statehood next May.

State Department spokesman James Rubin called on both Israel and the Palestinians to cease making statements about actions affecting final-status negotiations.

Arafat met yesterday with congressional leaders, including incoming Speaker of the House Robert Livingston.

GSS detains US immigrant for weapons arsenal

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The General Security Service, increasingly edgy over fears Jewish militants will try to block upcoming troop withdrawals, arrested an American immigrant on suspicion he was stockpiling weapons to attack Arabs - but later released him for lack of evidence.

A second American immigrant was detained for questioning, for allegedly selling him an assault rifle. Jonathan Tidi, 41, a resident of Moshav Nehusha in the Judean foothills near Beit Guvrin, was arrested last Wednesday, but news of his detention was censored until yesterday.

Apparently acting on a tip that Tidi was hoarding weapons to attack Palestinians, Israel Police and GSS agents searched his home. Jerusalem Police Spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said police found a "number" of weapons, 6,000 rounds of ammunition, hand grenades, night-vision goggles, ammunition belts stolen from the IDF, and other military equipment. Police detained him and confiscated the contraband.

According to Ben-Ruby, Tidi claimed that the weaponry was for self-defense, after a Palestinian state is declared in May 1999. Nehusha is somewhat isolated and only about 3,000 meters from the Green Line and the Arab villages of Tzurif and Beit Ula.

Tidi, a former member of the US Army Rangers and a gun expert, said he also wanted the weapons because he feared total chaos would erupt in the year 2000, when world computer systems would shut down owing to the Y2K bug. Furthermore, Tidi suspected the whole country would be overrun by Christian pilgrims in the millennium - and this was another reason for wanting to defend himself. He added that he did have a license for some of the weapons.

One of the weapons confiscated was an M-16 assault rifle which he said he bought from Ma'aleh Adumim gunsmith Yossi Lockhart. Lockhart is also an immigrant from the United States and a former US

Ranger. He confirmed to *The Jerusalem Post* that he was being investigated, but otherwise declined to comment on the affair. Tidi was released on Friday following two days of questioning, after the GSS and police became convinced there was no basis to the suspicion he was about to attack Palestinians.

Tidi, who immigrated from Los Angeles and is married with two children, is the only Anglo-Saxon immigrant on the religious settlement. Residents there said he has been heavily involved in security of the settlement in the past. Neighbors said Tidi was now setting up a security company specializing in anti-terror tactics.

Tidi was not just a volunteer for the Border Police, but also a member of its elite emergency team, and as such was allowed to keep an M-16 assault rifle at home. But in light of the affair, Jerusalem Police Chief Cmdr. Ya'ir Yitzhaki ordered that Tidi be expelled from the Border Police volunteers.

Tidi said he preferred not to comment on the incident.

It was the second time in a month that the GSS has arrested a Jewish Israeli on suspicions of planning to attack Arabs, based on incorrect information, Israel Radio said. Last month Yonatan Davidovitch was arrested on suspicion he stabbed Arabs. But he was later released.

AVITAL

Continued from Page 1

Following the news story, Bentsur ordered an investigation and the findings were handed to the police.

The ministry spokesman said last night that Sharon heard out Avital's response to the suspension and the allegations. He also met with the ministry's comptroller concerning the apparent evidence linking Avital to the leak.

Mirkin said she had not leaked the classified material.

She also said she would continue to work because the suspension had not followed the procedure laid out in the civil service regulations: in particular, she had not had a hearing with either Bentsur or Sharon before the suspension was announced. Bentsur had informed her of the suspension from the US.

A ministry spokesman had earlier said Avital had had opportunities to explain her position but her explanations had not dispelled the suspicions.

The matter was handed to the police for investigation because a criminal offense may have been committed. The 14-day suspension was made under a clause of the

Civil Service Law that relates to incidents that may have harmed state security.

Avital had previously refused the suggestion that she take a temporary leave.

Sharon instructed the head of the ministry's administration unit to ask the police to conduct a speedy investigation.

Avital's suspension sent shock waves throughout the ministry and the tremors could also be felt in the Knesset, where several opposition MKs condemned the move.

MK Ophir Pines-Paz (Labor) has submitted a motion on the subject, which is scheduled to be heard today.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid called the suspension: "An intolerable and unprecedented evil move." Pines-Paz said it was "clearly an act of revenge against a woman whose only crime is to have faithfully carried out the policies of the Rabin and Peres governments" and Meretz MK Anat Maor described it as "a political witch hunt."

Labor MK Yona Yahav wrote to the Civil Service Commissioner Shmuel Hollander regarding the monitoring of Avital's phone and fax lines. MK Ze'ev Boim (Likud) however, said the opposition MKs should be the first to support pro-

cedures to prevent leaks of classified material.

A ministry staffer, speaking on condition of anonymity, told *The Jerusalem Post* that the suspension and police inquiry were unprecedented and appeared to be motivated by a longstanding personal dispute between Avital and Bentsur. Avital is a former ambassador to Portugal and former consul-general in New York.

Abraham Rabinovich adds: At a Hebrew University conference this week marking 50 years of Israel's foreign service, Avital used the phrase "witch hunt," leaving her listeners to draw any inference they chose.

One of the speakers addressing the several hundred diplomats and ex-diplomats filling the Wise Auditorium on the Givat Ram campus, Avital preceded her talk on relations with Western Europe by noting that she had, as a Hebrew University student, attended many events in the hall.

"The last time I was on this stage was as an actress participating in Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible*," she noted with a smile. "In Hebrew it's called *Witch Hunt*. I couldn't help thinking of that today."

The audience reacted with laughter.

SAMARIA

Continued from Page 1

However, Lt. Peter Lerner, spokesman of the Civil Administration, which is in charge of land registration, said that Zar has been unable to prove ownership of the land. "We are investigating his claims in the Nahal Te'anim area," Lerner said.

Accompanied by officials from the Defense and Housing ministries, private landowners from overseas and delegations of two foundations who represent the Jewish landowners of Koor Te'anim and Nahalat Hashomron, the group set out yesterday with a surveyor to check the land and determine if any changes had been made over the years.

"The Arabs in the region have not touched the land nor cultivated it and we hope that this alone will be proof enough," Weiss said.

Several members of Kibbutz Kfar Giladi who own a quarry in Nahal Te'anim also visited the

area yesterday, Weiss said. Work started at the quarry some two years ago but was stopped due to opposition by Arabs living in the area. The quarry owners have written to government officials requesting authorization to operate it and work on the access road will begin within days, she said.

Last night another group planned to establish yet another encampment on one of the hilltops near Nahal Te'anim. Weiss said the group would build a stone house and remain there until the army declared the site a closed military zone. "We will go every night to a different hilltop in order to ensure that a Jewish presence remains there," Weiss vowed.

CORRECTION

Gov. Paul Cellucci of Massachusetts, one of four visiting US governors, has been to Israel in the past, and is not here on his first trip, as reported in Sunday's paper.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Rabbi David Saperstein will speak on the U.S. election results: their impact on Israel.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing in the fullness of her years of

HILDA FEUCHTWANGER

née Jandorf

The funeral will take place today, Wednesday, December 2, 1998 (13 Kislev) at 3 p.m. at the Nahalat Yitzhak Cemetery.

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Benjamin and Chava Feuchtwanger

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סניף מרכזי

501 אלול

Barak dines with Shahak, Meridor

By SARAH HOMIC

Guess who came to dinner at the Barak home in Kochav Yair last night? Ehud and Nava Barak invited Tali and Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and Leon and Dan Meridor over. And Ehud Barak, the Labor Party chairman, and his publicists made sure everyone would know about the dinner.

Privately they stressed and hyped the importance and the implications of the get-together. But on the record they were nonchalant and characterized it as a private affair.

Both Shahak, the former chief of staff, and Meridor, a Likud MK, denied that there was any political significance to the dinner. Shahak said that "perhaps political changes are needed in this country, but this is not the place in which they would be made."

The dinner was no incidental social occurrence, it is stressed in Labor. It was part of a well-prepared master plan which Barak has been working on and which he will present to the Labor central committee in two weeks.

The plan involves changing Labor's name to New Israel. The change of name, Barak hopes, will allow him to claim that the ticket which his candidacy for the premiership will be fielded will not be Labor's alone, but part of a wider framework to which various political and non-political elements outside of Labor - including Meridor and Lipkin-Shahak - would be admitted.

Such a move also is an attempt to preempt any other possible combination - specifically a new centrist party - to which the two might be recruited.

There were no immediate political results to yesterday's dinner, just the impression of momentum and of a temporary coup. For now, it is said around Barak, that was all he had bargained for last night. Renaming Labor and hosting high-profile guests may all be reflections of the advice Barak has been getting from his newest political advisers and spin doctors. Barak has engaged the services of three American specialists who helped make President Bill Clinton the comeback kid, according to Labor sources. Chief amongst them is campaign strategist James Carville, now a celebrity in his own right. Carville may visit here in several weeks.

Pollster Stanley Greenberg and media consultant Robert Schrum will round out the team. The trio is reputed to have also been involved in the recent triumphant campaigns of Tony Blair in Britain and of Gerhard Schroeder in Germany. Barak recently took a third of Labor's Knesset faction to visit Germany and Britain in an attempt to pick up tips regarding the socialist parties' successes in those countries.

On many occasions in the past, Barak has taken Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to task for his reliance on another American campaign consultant - Arthur Finkelstein.

Hillel Kuttler adds from Washington:

Three leading Democratic Party political operatives will travel to Israel in the coming weeks to begin discussions with Barak on his campaign for prime minister, an American source close to Barak confirmed yesterday.

"They have not closed the deal yet, but it's virtually done," he said.

Greenberg, who served for two years as Clinton's pollster; Carville, an architect of Clinton's 1992 presidential campaign; and Schrum, a longtime political advertisement consultant will be going to "learn about the Israeli system" and to conduct "a number of seminars for Labor campaign operatives," the source said.

Washington consultant Steve Rabinowitz, who has advised Barak in the past, will continue to be involved on an informal basis, the source said.

The American experts will share with Barak and the Labor Party their insight into "what are some of the early instruments you need to put in place" for the campaign, the source said.

The Americans are challenged at the outset by the fact that Barak has not yet hired a campaign manager, so "nobody knows exactly how they're going to be used," he added.



Hassidic huppa

Yisrael Menahem Alter, 19, son and heir to the Gerrer rebbe, Rabbi Ya'acov Arye Alter, weds Esther Elger, 17, of Bnei Brak, yesterday in a ceremony attended by some 20,000 people in Jerusalem's Romema neighborhood. Rehov Bar-Ilan and various side streets were shut for hours for the event, snarling traffic in the area.

(Brian Hendler)

Uri Dan to head anti-incitement delegation

By LIAT COLLINS

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon yesterday appointed veteran journalist Uri Dan to head the Israel delegation to the trilateral body to combat incitement.

The team, comprised also of Americans and Palestinians, was established in accordance with the Wye Memorandum.

Dan replaces former MK Yoash Tsiddon, who resigned this week due to "personal reasons," shortly after the committee began its work.

Dan said yesterday he had asked the Press Ethics Committee to

allow him to continue working as a journalist.

Dan works for both local and foreign news organizations, and is co-author of a weekly op-ed piece published in *The Jerusalem Post*. He has been a sharp critic of the Oslo process; in an article two weeks ago, he compared Yasser Arafat to Saddam Hussein.

Yesterday he told the *Post* he had accepted the unpaid position because he "felt it was his civic duty."

Regarding his goals, he said: "I think we should work very hard to stop incitement."

The appointment raised some

opposition, however. Labor MK Uzi Baram described it as "provocative and negative."

Dan is considered a close friend of Sharon's and served as his spokesman during the Lebanon War.

The Prime Minister's Office, meanwhile, yesterday issued a reaction to statements by Palestinian Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qurei (Abu Ala) on Radio Palestine. Qurei called on the Palestinians to use physical force to fight the settlers, and criticized Israel for not releasing security prisoners.

"The prime minister will not

tolerate any threat of violence - not against Israeli citizens in general and not against residents of Judea and Samaria in particular. This type of call is a violation of the agreement," the statement said.

"The prime minister also suggests that senior members of the Palestinian Authority refresh their memories by reading the Wye agreement, under which it is Israel that determines the categories of Palestinian prisoners to be released. Under no circumstances will the prime minister release Hamas prisoners or those with blood on their hands."

Knesset panel chairmen to be censured for burying bills

The Knesset approved a decision by the House Committee to impose sanctions against the chairman of a Knesset committee for burying legislation. Under the measure, a committee chairman would not be able to advance his own bills in the committee if there are other bills that have been waiting for up to six months for discussion and approval for first readings.

among children, which experts say can be prevented by wearing helmets.

The bill would put municipalities in charge of enforcing the law, but does not detail how punishments for such violations, such as those by children, would be handed down.

A bill proposed by MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor) would regulate the diet profession, and require that those who deal in such advice be approved by the Health Ministry. Yehzekel said the measure is aimed at preventing the exploitation of dieters by non-professionals or con men.

Hizbullah kills SLA soldier

By DAVID RUDGE

A South Lebanese Army soldier was killed and another was lightly wounded in Hizbullah bomb attacks during fighting in the region yesterday.

Later yesterday, in the evening, the IDF's Karkum position, in the security zone's western sector, came under heavy mortar fire. There were no casualties in that incident and IDF gunners returned fire.

The fatal attack occurred in the Jezzine enclave north of the zone, not far from an SLA position. An SLA soldier, who apparently was walking to the position, was killed instantly when an explosive device went off.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attack and for another incident in the early hours of the morning in the same area. An explosive device was detonated alongside an SLA armored vehicle on operational duties, lightly injuring an SLA soldier.

Military sources said the methods Hizbullah used yesterday were similar to those it employed in the recent attacks in the zone which claimed the lives of seven IDF sol-

is aimed at preventing he a d injuries, especially

among children, which experts say can be prevented by wearing helmets.

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A bill proposed by MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor) would regulate the diet profession, and require that those who deal in such advice be approved by the Health Ministry. Yehzekel said the measure is aimed at preventing the exploitation of dieters by non-professionals or con men.

dieters and wounded several others. Lebanese analysts said yesterday's incidents indicate that Hizbullah was likely to switch its attention back to attacking the SLA, instead of concentrating on IDF targets as it had in the past two weeks.

"The organization is likely to rest on its laurels for a couple of weeks, while sustaining the pressure with attacks on the SLA and long-range firing at IDF and SLA positions in the zone," a Lebanese observer said.

In the meantime, the Grapes of Wrath monitoring group, whose meeting was brought forward in an effort to help defuse the tension in the region, yesterday completed its discussions into a record 15 complaints over breaches of the understandings.

The IDF Spokesman said that the five-nation committee determined that Lebanon was responsible for breaching the understandings in eight out of nine protests that Israel lodged. These related mainly to firing by Hizbullah and Amal gunmen from villages north of the zone. The monitoring group also recognized four out of the six complaints lodged by Lebanon relating to shelling of villages north of the zone by IDF and SLA gunners.

Sarid demands Elitzur's resignation

By LIAT COLLINS

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid is demanding the resignation of Uri Elitzur, the prime minister's bureau chief, for remarking to bereaved mothers that they are "seeking headlines."

"This is not the first time that Elitzur has acted rudely towards bereaved parents who have lost their children in Lebanon, and no headline will console them," said Sarid.

"Elitzur should leave the Prime Minister's Office and go back to his settler friends so that his rudeness will be less annoying and more natural."

MK Ophir Pines-Paz (Labor) wrote a letter of complaint to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, saying that MKs also "receive the same arrogant and unacceptable answers" from Elitzur.

The incident between Elitzur and members of the Four Mothers group, which is calling for unilateral IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, took place on Monday. Representatives of the group, holding a protest outside the Prime Minister's Office, asked to be allowed to speak with Netanyahu before the security cabinet meeting.

In response to the criticism he has received, Elitzur replied, "They were hurt, I think unjustifiably. I explained that Netanyahu could not hold a meeting with them because of his tight schedule, but said I would try and arrange a meeting later."

"It's true I said that they only want headlines, but I meant that the movement they belong to, Four Mothers, is seeking headlines - and I don't think that is hurtful."

Meanwhile, MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) yesterday rejected Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's demand for an apology, following their heated exchange at Monday's Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense



Uri Elitzur

(David Rubinger)

Committee meeting.

Beilin accused Mordechai of playing with soldiers' lives and said, "If there is a casino in Israel it is the Israeli government's casino, and the defense minister is personally responsible for it."

Beilin claimed that he was reacting to Mordechai's words, saying those proposing a unilateral withdrawal are gambling.

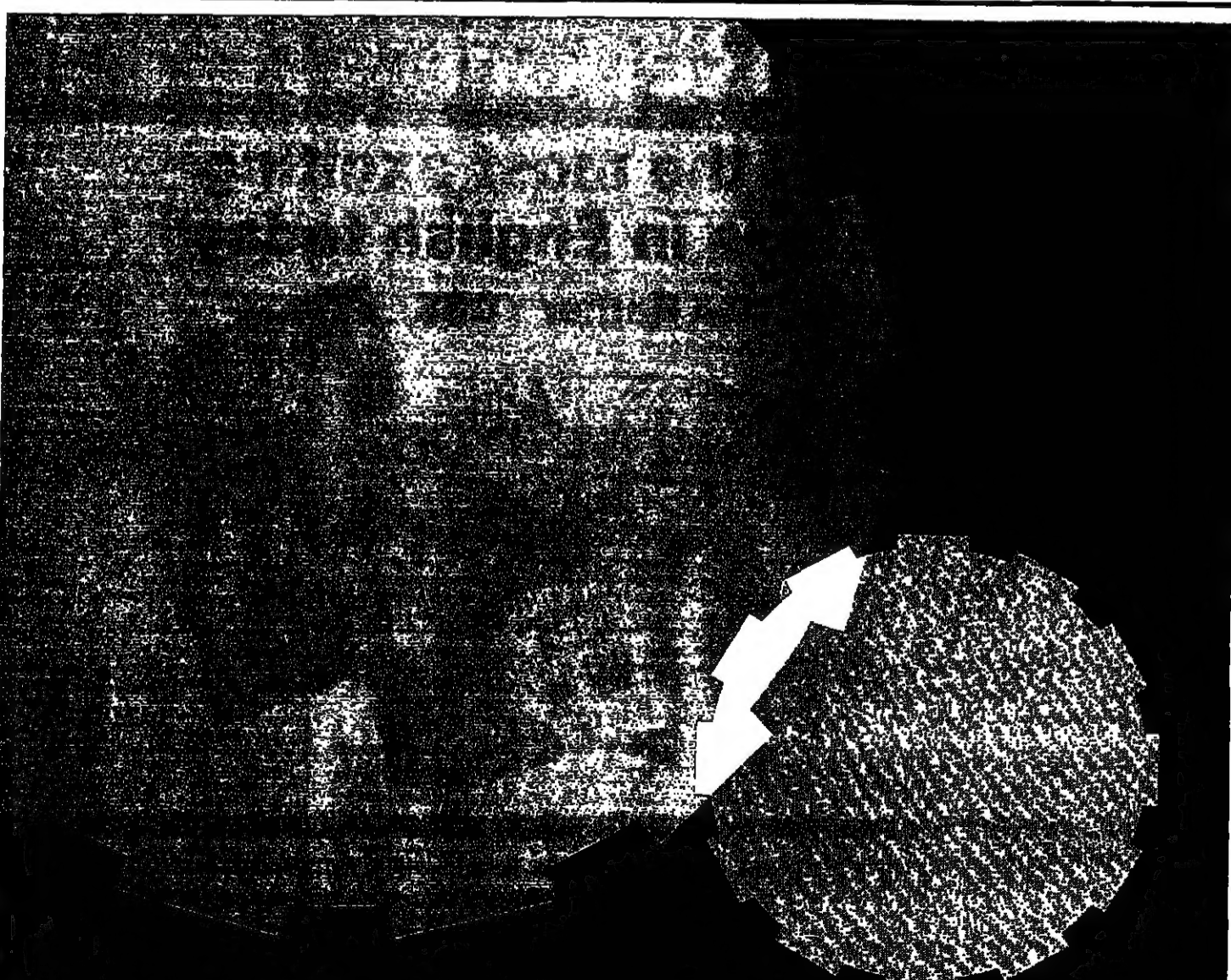
Mordechai later wrote to Beilin, accusing him of using "belligerent language," which was "unacceptable" to him.

"Today as defense minister my responsibility is total and I am not prepared for anyone, especially a member of the Knesset, to say I am 'gambling with the blood of soldiers,' or 'running a casino.'"

"Therefore, I am demanding you take back your words and apologize before the committee, so that we can continue to discuss security matters in a civilized way and in plain language - even if there is a very difficult argument."

Labor secretary-general Ra'anan Cohen issued a statement saying that Beilin should have shown Mordechai more respect. Cohen also said that Beilin's views on Lebanon do not reflect the Labor Party's stand.

Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report.



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Albright recalls 'the blood that is in my family veins'

By MARILYN HENRY

WASHINGTON - Madeleine Albright, referring to herself as a grandmother in her 62nd year, yesterday opened an international conference on Holocaust assets by recalling that her grandparents' names appear on the wall of the Pinkas Synagogue in Prague that commemorates the Czech Jews murdered by the Nazis.

Albright, the secretary of state who only recently learned of her Jewish roots, told the delegates who have convened in Washington from 44 nations, that she has started to "think of the blood that is in my family veins." "Does it matter what kind of blood it is? It shouldn't. It is just blood that does its job," she said. "But it mattered to Hitler and that matters to us all because that is why 6 million Jews died and that is why this obscenity of suffering was visited on so many innocent, irreplaceable people." The conference is to examine what happened to Nazi-looted art, unpaid insurance claims, and communal property.

But, Albright said: "It is about much more than gold and art and insurance. It's about remembering that no one's blood is less or more precious than our own." The head of

the Israeli delegation, MK Avraham Herschson (Likud), also addressed the plenary. He opened his remarks by reading for two minutes the names and ages of Jewish children who were killed in the Holocaust.

"We set no boundaries on the pursuit of justice," he said. Also addressing the conference plenary was the head of the International Romani Union, Rajko Djuric of Berlin.

Although the conference agenda is driven by Jewish issues and by Jewish advocacy, Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat yesterday attempted to set an ecumenical tone, saying that not only Jewish, but Catholic and Protestant communal property had been confiscated and must be returned to the religious communities of Europe.

The significant items on today's agenda are Holocaust education and remembrance. Sweden has been singled out for kudos at the conference for founding an International Task Force on Holocaust Education, of which Israel and Germany are members.

The conference is not expected to conclude with any decisions, although it was propelled by what Eizenstat has called a desire to reach a consensus to rectify the injustices stemming from the Nazi

era. The conference was striving, Albright said, for an "atmosphere free from threats." Albright called on all archives around the world to be fully open to researchers. "They must have access that is full, everywhere, now," she said, without mentioning any country by name.

"We must dig to find the truth," she said. "Only by knowing and being honest about the past can we gain peace in the present and confidence in the future."

Aryeh Dean Cohen adds:

Officials from the Center of Organizations of Holocaust Survivors in Israel said yesterday that a plan worked out with the Treasury for dispersal of \$60 million from the Swiss humanitarian fund earmarked for needy Holocaust survivors in Israel was sent to the Swiss last week by the World Jewish Restitution Organization.

A joint team from the Treasury's office for rehabilitation of the disabled and the Center prepared a plan for distribution of the funds, including a proposal for setting eligibility criteria. Once the Swiss approve it and the funds are transferred here, the criteria will be published and dispersal will begin.



New MK sworn in

Doron Shmueli is sworn in yesterday as a Likud MK, replacing outgoing Tsomet MK and Omer Mayor Pini Badash who resigned from his Knesset seat this week. Shmueli, 44, from Moshav Elin Vered, was earmarked in a Tsomet slot on the joint list with the Likud and Gesher. However, since the elections he has cut his ties with Tsomet and a year ago joined the Likud Party. As a result, Tsomet's representation in the Knesset has dropped to four MKs.

(Text: Nina Gilbert Photo: Isaac Hazzari)

MKs weep at discussion of body parts burial

By LIAT COLLINS

MKs and reporters openly wiped away tears yesterday during a Knesset committee meeting discussing the secret burial of the body parts of naval commandos Third Petty Officer Guy Golan and 3PO Raz Tobi, who were killed in Lebanon in September 1997.

The Knesset State Control Committee, chaired by MK Yossi Katz (Labor), met following the discovery that the families of the two soldiers had not been informed that their sons had not been buried whole. The body parts were later interred on top of the coffins without the parents' knowledge and without DNA testing.

Yoram Golan, Guy's father, said his suspicions had first been raised when, instead of receiving his son's watch after his death, as is the custom in the commandos, he was handed a new watch in a box. He said the fears increased when the body of 3PO Itamar Ilyan, who was killed in the same operation, was returned a few months ago amid reports that there was another small coffin in the plane.

He finally discovered the truth while surfing the Internet when he came across a site describing what had been returned: "Five legs, so many fingers and bits of skin," Golan recalled. "And they never told us." He also described the interment of the body parts of his son as "a donkey's burial."

Maj.-Gen. Yehuda Segal, head of the IDF Manpower Division, said, "My stomach turns over and my heart bleeds in the face of this terrible story."

He said the IDF procedure in the past had not been to inform the families and the IDF Rabbinate policy had been not to open the coffins but to bury the parts along side. The IDF is considering changing the procedure, he said. The policy of not telling the families was considered a way of sparing them extra pain, he explained.

Katz admitted he had cried at the fathers' spoke.

State Comptroller Eliezer Goldberg said he would like to see the results of the internal inquiry into the affair and hear the IDF's conclusions before acting.

MKs Nissan Slomiansky (National Religious Party) and Ra'anan Cohen (Labor) demanded an independent external inquiry. The parents' lawyer Eliad Shraga said Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi had promised to work toward establishing a committee of inquiry into the parents' complaints.

MKs demand rights for Israelis' non-Jewish spouses

By MINA GILBERT

The Interior Ministry must halt its policy of deporting non-Jewish spouses of Israelis as the first requirement for obtaining resident status here, as well as other stringent measures, MK Avi Yehzekel (Labor) demanded yesterday.

"Love cannot be stopped by bureaucrats," Yehzekel said, adding that if the policies are not rescinded, he will soon draft legislation to ease the hardship on the couples. "The time has come to put an end to this affair."

He was speaking in the Knesset yesterday at a meeting between a group of MKs and a dozen couples who are awaiting Interior

Ministry recognition of their marriages.

The High Court of Justice is still considering the petition of 30 couples filed a year-and-a-half ago. According to the group, the ministry has been delaying recognition of marriages and denying basic rights to non-Jewish spouses ever since Interior Minister Eli Shmitta took office in 1996.

Under current policy, only non-Jewish spouses of new immigrants are given automatic rights.

Rafi Cohen, head of the ministry's Population Registry, argued that Israel has liberal immigration policies compared with other countries, but cannot grant rights to those who are here illegally.

Cohen said spouses are asked to leave the country and then receive an invitation from their spouse to return. However, the couples said no date for return is guaranteed - and one spouse has been waiting abroad for seven months.

Ministry officials have said in the past that these steps are necessary to prevent "marriages of convenience."

MK Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) blasted the ministry policy, saying that they were turning the non-Jewish spouses into

"Prisoners of Zion," since they dare not leave the country for fear they will not be allowed to return.

Yehzekel also demanded that the ministry change its policy of forcing spouses who have been invited back to wait 27 months, during which they are not entitled to any rights, such as a work permit or health insurance, while the ministry considers recognizing the marriage.

He said spouses should be made temporary residents and be given citizenship after two years - or at once, if they have a child.

Anat Primo, who is married to a Ghanaian, said the ministry is trying to break families apart and inflicting "humiliation and hardship" on them, since the non-Jewish spouse cannot work or obtain health care.

She condemned the policy of listing the father of children of such marriages as "unknown." Non-Jewish women in such marriages are deterred from having children due to lack of health insurance.

Cohen responded by saying that the situation is "painful for both sides."

MK Sofia Landver (Labor) said the policy is "incorrect and unsuitable for a democratic country."

Bronfman to head US assets panel

By MARILYN HENRY

WASHINGTON - On the eve of an international conference on Holocaust-era assets, the White House on Monday appointed Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, as chairman of the 23-member US Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets.

The commission, of politicians and private individuals, was mandated to research the fate of Holocaust assets that found their way to the US or were under US military control between 1933 and 1945. The assets include gold, gems, bank accounts and art.

Bronfman and his family's company, Seagrams, are major donors to the Democratic Party.

There are 17 different historical commissions, with varying degrees of independence and authority, delving into European nations' wartime history.

The US presidential commission on the Holocaust, which was created with fanfare by Congress last summer, is due to complete its work by December 1999. It got off to a rocky start. According to the congressional legislation, the White House had until September 21 to name its appointees. But the appointments were delayed after its first choice for chairman, Steven

Solarz, a former congressman from New York, withdrew from consideration, sources said.

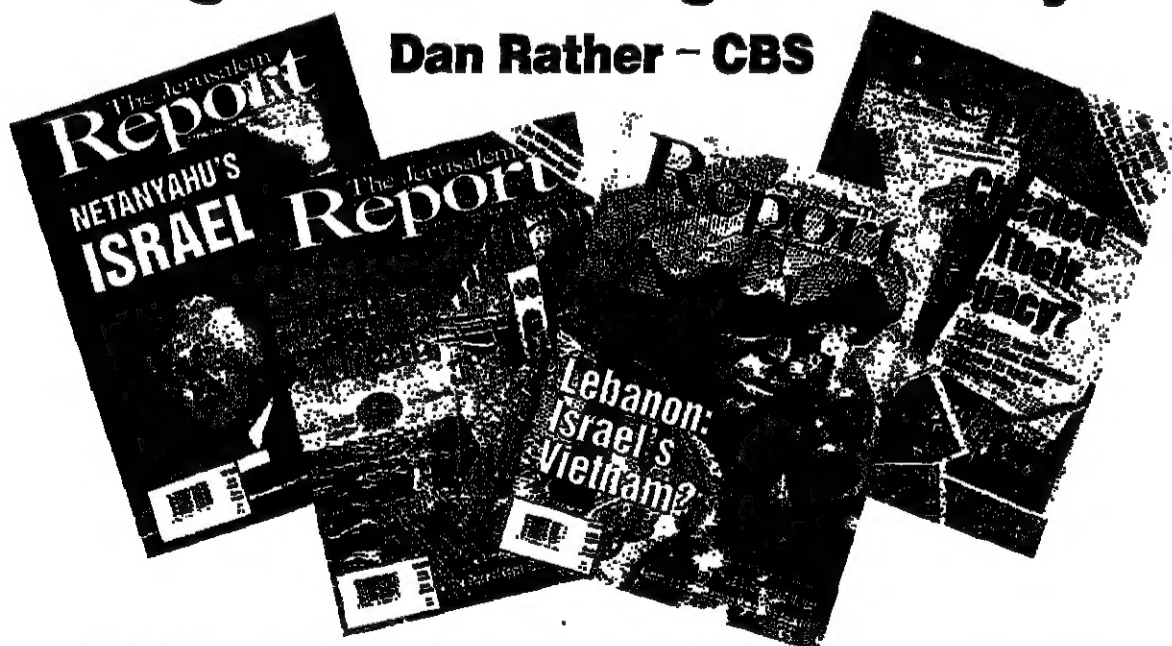
Although the US - like Switzerland - was a major haven for European funds during the war, to date, there has been no systematic effort to examine what accounts of European origin ended up in New York banks and then were treated as "abandoned property" and turned over to the public treasury.

Among the 12 members appointed by the White House are Jehuda Reinharz, an Israeli-born historian who is president of Brandeis University, and Roman Kent, of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

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11 HIV-carriers born here this year

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN and LIAT COLLINS

Thirty percent of high-school pupils have sex, there has been a 50% increase in the number of female HIV carriers in Israel since 1991, and women have a four times greater risk than men of being infected by AIDS during sexual intercourse. These were some of the figures presented to the Knesset committees on Education and the Status of Women, which dedicated discussions yesterday to World AIDS Day.

AIDS education in Israel must be made available throughout the educational system, including the Arab and haredi sectors, Knesset Education Committee chairman Emanuel Zissmann said.

Zissmann said the program should be aimed at preventing the spread of AIDS, alcohol abuse,

drug use and smoking. The NIS 100,000 currently budgeted for this must be increased, he added.

The Committee on the Status of Women, chaired by MK Marina Solodkin (Yisrael Ba'aliya), called on the Health and Education ministries to budget some NIS 43m. for educational campaigns on prevention measures.

Yinon Shenkar, chairman of the Jerusalem AIDS Project, said that a poll showed that 52% of youth in state schools would agree to invite an AIDS carrier into their homes, but 55% of youth in the state religious schools would absolutely refuse to do so.

Sarah, an AIDS victim who appears regularly before school audiences said, "I didn't get any explanation about AIDS. If I had, maybe I wouldn't be standing here today." She added that her mother was fired from her job

after the story of her AIDS affliction became public.

"In 1998 11 HIV-carrying children were born [in Israel]," according to Prof. Zvi Bentowich, head of the AIDS unit at Rehovot's Kaplan Hospital. "I recommend HIV screening for every pregnant woman."

He said before 1997 there were 219 female HIV carriers in Israel. That number increased by 43 this year, he added.

The MKs were particularly moved by the story of a woman infected 12 years ago by a boyfriend who did not know he was HIV positive.

"I underwent a terrible crisis, scared to death of loss and dying... I won tremendous support from my family without which I would not be here today. I function today with ups and downs. I got married and even gave birth to a healthy child," she said.

Greek air force chief to fly Israeli fighter jet

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

The commander of the Greek Air Force, who arrived in Israel yesterday for a three-day official visit, is expected to take to the skies in an Israeli fighter jet today.

Air Force officials said that Lt.-Gen. Giorgos Antonetis will fly in an IAF F-16.

Israel is currently involved in upgrading Greek warplanes, but mainly as subcontractors. Even though Antonetis is being hosted by the Air Force, he is also expected to tour defense industries in what may be an effort to expand cooperation.

OC Air Force Maj.-Gen. Eitan Ben-Eliyahu visited Greece in January 1997. During that visit, Ben-Eliyahu and Antonetis each flew a Mirage 2000 jet fighter and newspapers in Athens reported that they even held a mock dog fight. The winner was not reported.

Air Force officials could not say

last night whether Ben-Eliyahu would also fly today with Antonetis.

Antonetis's visit comes two weeks before Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai pays an official visit to Greece. Mordechai, who is keen on not rocking the close military ties with Turkey, chose to visit Greece during the Hanukka holiday, which commemorates the Jews' defeat of the ancient Hellenists.

Greece has expressed interest in finally implementing the 1994 military treaty. The pact, similar to the one signed with Turkey, calls for joint naval exercises and rescue operations as well as joint air maneuvers.

In an interview published over the weekend in Greece, Mordechai criticized Athens for turning down an offer last year to participate in January's joint naval maneuvers with Israel, the US and Turkey. Greece's traditional rival,

Israel had actually invited both Egypt and Greece to participate in January's joint maneuvers, but each heavily criticized them.

Greece and Egypt are in the midst of a week-long joint naval exercise off the Egyptian coast. Officially they are part of the defense pact signed between Egypt and Greece last year, but they are also seen as an answer to the Turkish-Israeli maneuvers.

Defense sources said that the invitation will be repeated during Mordechai's three-day trip, which begins December 18.

Mordechai will be hosted by the Jewish Greek community of Thessaloniki, but he will also be meeting with top Greek officials in Athens.

The Greek air force commander is to depart late tomorrow after meeting with top IDF officials and touring defense industries. Israeli defense companies, such as Elbit, are upgrading the Greek F-4E.

סדרה מן הארץ

Down and dirty

Forget the days when responsible media considered the private sex lives of elected leaders to be nobody's business. These days, even their unselected daughters are not safe.

The last bastion of media decency in the United States has been a tacit agreement to leave Chelsea Clinton alone, to let her grow up away from the prying eyes of a salacious public and its sleazy priesthood, the trash-tabloid hacks. No more – the *New York Post* has run a grunge-gossip story about her first romantic affair. In Britain, a similar consensus to lay off Princess Diana's boys has been crumbling, and some outrageous invasion of their privacy cannot be far off. Chelsea was 12 when Dad became president of the United States. Of course, she was immediately thrust into the glare of flashbulbs, but so was Socks the family cat, and as long as it remained at that "Aw gee, aren't they cute" level, and within snapshot moderation, no one was going to object. Of course, there were inevitable smart-asses from the start, sneering at Chelsea and Socks as First Brat and First Cat. Thanks, First Rat.

Soft slot

Who are tabloid journalists? The satisfying answer is that they are people who sell out whatever craft God gave them to deliver the lowest blow for the highest buck. However, it's not exactly that simple.

In the mid 1980s, when Beirut hostage crises were the big running story for Western media, serious Middle East-based correspondents had their first run-ins with tabloid terrorists crashing their territory. It was entertaining and appalling. The mere idea of foreign news coverage by British tabloid newspapers has always been enough to unleash the scathing wit of Upper Fleet Street. Hard-working real journalists would dream aloud of an eventual soft slot as foreign editor of the *Sun* or *Mirror* – "one paragraph a week for page 97," as one colleague once drooled over a beer.

In tabloid-land, reality can quickly outpace wit: "Bush pukes on Jap lap" turned out to be the one-paragraph tabloid foreign news of that week. During the crisis after Hizbullah took Church of England negotiator Terry Waite hostage, the *Mirror* decided it just had to cover this one, and because it dispatched a "journalist" to Larnaca, so did two of its rivals.

They immediately set off in search of fiercely competitive "hooray intr" stories. This involved getting blind drunk with British soldiers from the bases, and then making up lurid copy about their sex lives with Russian spies in sleazy drug dens.

Sheikhy, baby

After three days of trashing the competition with these international scoops, one of them suddenly announced to a group of us snobbish upper-class residents (BBC, Reuters, AP and *The Times*) that he hadn't realized Cyprus was so

close to the "Holy Land."

So, he was going over there to persuade "that sheikh fellow" to let him interview Terry Waite. Could we help with some contacts?

We couldn't think of anything more delightful than sending this moron to Israel to tell security at Ben-Gurion he was here to see Sheikh Fadhallah, the spiritual leader of Hizbullah. ("Hey, Sheikhy baby, yalla!")

Alas, it was all a ploy. What he was really doing was using us to throw his tabloid competition off the scent while he went to a remote Cypriot village for a world exclusive. There he interviewed and photographed a village farmer locally known as a Michail Gorbachev lookalike. The farmer starred briefly in the *Daily Mail* as "Gorby's long-lost brother who disappeared 40 years earlier in Siberia."

However, it appears ignorance, illiteracy and dishonesty are not always essential requirements for entry. A young *Mirror* reporter, an Oxford English graduate, widely traveled and well-read, told me: "You write serious news, I write stuff people read, and the *Mirror* pays me a fortune to do it."

Body of work

There we have the uneasy half-truth that bridges the gulf between serious journalists and tabloid hacks. We think they are hookers peddling fishnet-stockings, they think we are envious elitist snobs working for flaccid organs. In Britain, the *Sun* sells five million copies a day, the *Independent* a quarter of a million.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart, sniffingly dismissed the Chelsea "split-up with boyfriend" story thus: "I wouldn't consider the *New York Post* to be part of the media."

Whoa, Joe – that ostrich-land you're heading for. In Britain, no politician lives in daily dread of being ambushed by *The Times*, other than for legitimate policy controversies. It's the *News of the World* or the *Sun* that gets them, usually with pants down.

On the other hand, *New York Post* editor Ken Chander said the Chelsea Clinton story was no invasion of privacy at all: "She happens to be the daughter of the president."

Whoa, Ken – let's get really down and dirty; know any kids who happen to be those of a prominent newspaper editor?

"Give the people what they want" has become the bankrupt mantra of media that simply do not care any more. Already we get blood and body bits on our television screens, sexual cigar techniques in serious newspapers, and now Doctor Death Kevorkian killing a man on CBS.

Media moralists feign disgust at barbarian public executions in Saudi Arabia, but give them exclusive rights to film one, and they'll be there.

What does the tabloid media philosophy of "nothing sacred" mean? What did increasingly bloody circuses say about a once-noble Rome? We should be told, but with a depraved media, who will tell us? In the meantime – lock up your daughters.

Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

Raising Russian spirits?

Searching for a way out of the current economic and fiscal crisis, Moscow has its eye on bringing the ever-lucrative vodka industry under greater state 'control'

By MICHAEL A. HILTZIK

With evident satisfaction, Alexander Z. Varianov strained to be heard over the din of clanking bottles. "There are three things a man can watch forever without growing bored," said the factory foreman with the air of someone unburdening himself of an ancient Russian proverb. "A fire burning, water flowing... and other people working."

On display behind him was a living tableau of the last-mentioned – several dozen women tending two serpentine production lines on which thousands of bottles were being filled with a crystalline liquid, then capped, labeled and packed in cases.

This is the Topaz plant, about 25 miles north of Moscow, one of the few factories in this country manufacturing a product that people are willing to buy. That product is vodka, which is once again – as it often has been throughout Russian history – the gold standard by which all other Russian industry is measured, and a favored instrument of state fiscal control.

Today the vodka industry, only privatized six years ago, is under an assault engendered both by the product's obvious value and its sheer ubiquity.

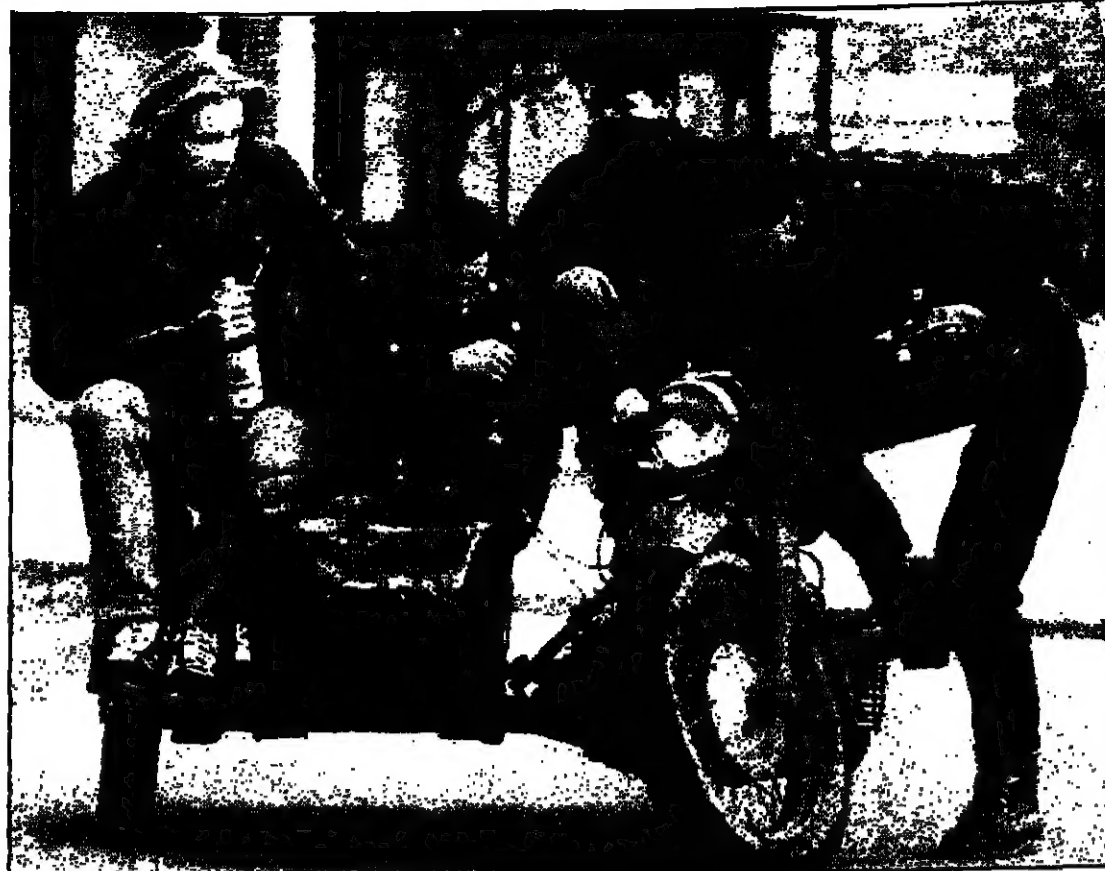
The government, desperate for a way out of the fiscal and economic crisis gripping this land, announced on Sept. 29 a plan to bring alcohol production under greater state "control." Most observers interpreted the term as meaning, at the very least, an increase in licensing fees and taxes on alcohol producers. Others heard a suggestive hint of "nationalization."

Although Prime Minister Yevgeny M. Primakov said there would be no re-establishment of Russia's traditional government alcohol monopoly, one Moscow magazine quoted a vodka executive as remarking: "In the brains of the government, the idea of nationalization is already fermenting."

THAT'S not surprising: Vodka provided as much as 30 percent of all government revenue under the czars and the Soviet regime; now it contributes less than 5%.

Since the Soviet state crumbled seven years ago, Russia's gross domestic product has shrunk by well over half. Acres upon acres of land on which once-bustling, if woefully inefficient, collective farms operated now lie fallow while imported foodstuffs fill the shops.

According to a recent analysis in the journal *Foreign Affairs*, in 1997 capital investment in Russian industry, agriculture, transportation and communications was no more



Moscow teenagers pile into a beat up motorcycle with their bottle of vodka: Vodka has become a Russian symbol of hospitality, conviviality, peasant heartiness and wintry despair. (AP)

than 17% of investment in the same sectors seven years earlier.

The exception to this baleful record is the vodka industry. It is not unusual to hear the directors of vodka plants boast about how much they already pay in taxes – this in a land where tax avoidance is a national sport and many large companies pay as much as 90 percent of their taxes by barter. Even Gazprom, the natural gas company that is Russia's privatized heavyweight, recently announced that it will pay 2% of its \$790 million tax bill in food.

"There are perhaps 20 companies like ours in the whole country," said Vladimir V. Antonov, the Topaz plant's deputy director for production and quality, referring to fully private enterprises capable of turning a consistent profit.

Topaz distillers' work force of about 500 people on full wages, he noted, and boasts some of the most modern distilling equipment in Russia.

The company paid 120 billion rubles in taxes last year, or about \$20m. at 1997 exchange rates. He said it will pay 200 million rubles this year – still about \$13m., despite the sharp devaluation of the ruble last August.

It is not only because of its storied capacity to raise money that vodka plays a unique role in

Russian policy and life. As the Japanese revere rice and the French their own language, to Russians vodka represents much that is quintessentially Russian, a symbol of hospitality, conviviality, peasant heartiness and wintry despair. Its role is evident in traditional sayings: "There are only two kinds of vodka, good and very good." Or: "Tea is not vodka – you can't drink a lot of it."

But while vodka's profitability makes it a ripe target for government control or even a takeover, legitimate vodka producers face what may be an even greater threat: crime.

Official statistics suggest that the real business of Russia is not vodka production, but illegal vodka production. And those illicit operations, which avoid the government's stiff excise taxes, can undercut the street price of legitimate vodka by as much as 50%.

Government tax police say that in 1997, when Russians consumed 660 million gallons of vodka, legal production for domestic consumption amounted to only 217 million gallons. That means as much as two-thirds of all the vodka drunk in the country that year was produced or imported illegally – "a rather sad figure," Viktor L. Khvorostyan, major general of the tax police service, said at a recent news conference.

Legitimate vodka producers say what fuels this trade is the government's own ham-handed tax system. While production of an average bottle of vodka costs about 5 rubles, or about 30 cents, the government tax on that same bottle is 10 rubles – which must be paid by the producer. Since no tax is typically collected at the store counter, retail shops nationwide have plenty of incentive to offer customers the underpriced, if illegal, product.

AS anyone would know from studying the Prohibition era, the one economic sector certain to profit from arbitraging the gap between the cost of real and illicit vodka is organized crime.

"No illegal alcohol business can be done just by one person acting alone," said Maj. Gen. Khvorostyan. "As a rule, what we have are well-organized criminal groups consisting of both downright criminals and people who seem normal at first sight, but are in reality corrupted officials."

The harvest, he concluded, has been that "this is truly a bloody business, one of the cruelest types of business in Russia today."

Not that legitimate vodka producers have always conducted their business serenely, as is attested by the Topaz factory's top-of-the-line product, Saproshin vodka, which comes in a slender

milky-white glass bottle topped with a pointed brown cap and designed to resemble a rifle shell.

That's a memorial, Antonov cheerfully reveals, to the eponymous Saproshin, who perished by gunshot not long after he and two partners pooled 1 million rubles each to turn a Pushkino scrap yard into a private vodka factory in 1994.

The circumstances of his death? "It was a dispute over ownership," Antonov says.

Given the Wild West nature of the vodka trade, it is perhaps not surprising that the government portrayed its efforts to secure a greater share of vodka revenue – including beefing up the tax police force and tightening up the licensed sale of alcoholic beverages – as an anti-contraband policy. To the extent such a policy would aid legitimate producers, it is more likely to gain their support.

This is the right decision made at the right time," said Grigory A. Kostikov, deputy general director of Kristall, the Moscow-based producer of Stolichnaya vodka. "The market mechanisms are not in place for normal competition."

It is also more likely to gain public favor, since one noticeable result of the spread of illegal vodka is a rise in poisonings by adulterated spirits sold as pure. According to the tax police service, more than 90,000 people died from drinking methanol or other substandard alcohol in the last year.

But most market observers view Primakov's Sept. 29 directive more as an attempt to regain ground lost when the post-Soviet government of 1992 relinquished the state's 68-year-old monopoly on alcohol.

"The majority of our people think it was either a grave mistake or a criminal conspiracy for the state to allow such an enormous amount of money to slip out of the hands of the government," said Valery A. Oreshkin, a trade expert who is director of the All-Russian Market Research Institute in Moscow.

How firm the government intends to be is still unclear, as the formal regulations have yet to be published.

"One aspect of Soviet and Russian socialism," said Antonov, sounding like a man whose business fortune has been subject to the whims of bureaucrats for far too long, "is that no document ever stands on its own. Who will I have to pay for my license? Who will I have to bribe? Until the subsidiary documents explain this, no one will know what will happen." (Los Angeles Times)

The voice of China is growing softer

BEIJING – The people are reading all about it, but no longer in the *People's Daily*, the official mouthpiece of the Communist Party.

China's novel system of "socialism with Chinese characteristics" – which means almost anything goes – has given rise to thousands of newspapers trumpeting tales of official corruption, environmental degradation, domestic violence, celebrity gossip and murder.

The aggressive upstarts have caused the august and deadly dull *People's Daily* to lose half its circulation, forcing the paper to start giving itself a makeover so it can better live up to its name.

In January, the paper finally con-

ceded that most Chinese are more concerned about money than Mao. It beefed up its business coverage with a weekly insert devoted to detailed charts of the stock markets and other money-making ideas. It also introduced a society page and a more reader friendly design.

"We have, on the one hand, reinforced its authoritative voice, while at the same time made it more accessible to readers," said Xu Zhongtian, who assumed the cabinet-rank position of chief editor in March.

The paper's tentative steps are forced by the fast-moving media scene. From about 200 newspapers fewer than 20 years ago, China now has more than 2,000 daily

newspapers and 10,000 weekly or monthly magazines, all jostling for the attention of a wandering public. In addition, hundreds of TV stations in every region of the country reach an estimated 900 million people. China also has recorded the fastest-growing Internet usage in Asia, its present number of 1.83 million users projected to rise to 9.37 million in 2002.

ALL the new-style newspapers are owned by units of the Communist Party or are otherwise indirectly controlled by its private ownership remains illegal. But as part of a less intrusive social environment, the papers in practice operate

increasingly freely and compete fiercely. Most of them feed readers a daily diet of rape and murder, wife beatings and extramarital affairs, property disputes, legal reform and, yes, unrequited love.

Some have become wildly popular by publishing stories on official corruption – although only at provincial and lower levels.

Many carry thoughtful stories on the most vile of China's polluters, usually corporations owned by the state. Perhaps the best of them is *Southern Weekend*, published in the city of Guangzhou and circulated nationally. Papers such as *Beijing Youth Daily*, oriented toward the urban young with its articles on popular music and fashion, also are read widely.

One of the most successful of the new-style papers, the *Xinmin Evening News*, published in Shanghai, is unabashed about its approach to the news, which it describes as "shorter, shorter, even shorter, shorter, shorter, even shorter." In these new-breed papers, the boundaries of news fit to print have been extended.

"The one area that's really off-limits to 'real' reporting is politics – domestic and foreign policy," said Judy Polunbaum, an associate professor of journalism at the University of Iowa, who specializes on the Chinese media.

That is the acknowledged domain of the *People's Daily*, which continues to record every ponderous pronouncement from party leaders.

THE paper commands few voluntary readers these days. Although its daily circulation of fewer than 3 million is still nearly double that of its closest rivals, the number is a steep decline from its peak of more than 6 million in the early 1980s, when the paper was under the sway of a crusading editor, Hu Jiwei, who was subsequently deposed for showing excessive zeal for political reform.

Part of the paper's attempts to try to win back its readership is publication of a section called "Society Weekly," its version of a society

page, although it eschews any titillating tidbits and focuses on issues such as rural electricity prices. The paper's redesign makes it look a little less forbidding, although no color is used except on earth-shattering occasions.

But the *People's Daily* is failing to attract readers such as Ren Yanhua, a 26-year-old kindergarten teacher in Beijing who prefers newspapers that write more about ordinary people, not the leaders, and focus more on everyday concerns.

"I usually read the *Beijing Youth Daily*... and *China Women's News*," Ren said. "I only flip through the *People's Daily* once in a while."

Editor Xu says his paper, available only by subscription, is above the crowds.

"Our readers are mainly leading officials, Communist Party members and people concerned with affairs of state," he said.

Despite the changes being made at the paper, it seems unlikely that it can go far enough to recapture an audience no longer beholden to it. Not that the readers necessarily trusted it to begin with. In fact, many newspaper readers here are practiced in the art of tea-leaf reading. Typically, they have scanned the paper to decipher hidden messages, get clues about leadership intrigues and divisions – and how those might affect them.

Much of the circulation comes from mandatory subscription by every government office, state-owned enterprise and educational institution. The *People's Daily* is generally unavailable at newsstands and read mostly at work.

The *People's Daily* is open to a few noncontroversial nods in the direction of modernity. Its Web site (<http://www.peopledaily.com.cn>) is updated nine times each day and claims more than 2 million hits monthly. From Beijing, the paper transmits each edition by satellite to 30 printing plants around China and the world.

All the while faithfully propagating the party doctrine. And losing readers. (Newsday)

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Republicans move to expand Clinton impeachment inquiry

By LAURIE KELLMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Judiciary Committee voted along party lines yesterday to subpoena evidence about President Bill Clinton's campaign fund-raising, effectively expanding its impeachment inquiry into a new area.

Committee Democrats sharply objected and House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt demanded that Republican House leaders take steps to control the inquiry.

Gephardt charged that "chaos is reigning" in the impeachment probe and suggested outgoing Speaker Newt Gingrich or incoming Speaker Bob Livingston "needs to be given the responsibility, needs to take" control.

In the midst of a hearing carefully planned to underscore the seriousness of perjury, the Judiciary Committee voted 20-15 along party lines to subpoena evidence from the Justice Department investigation of fund-raising abuses in Clinton's 1996 campaign.

"It's my worry that this is becoming an impeachment inquiry in search of a high crime," said the panel's senior Democrat, John Conyers of Michigan.

Democrats have said the evidence against Clinton related to his sexual affair with White House intern Monica Lewinsky does not reach the level of "high crimes and misdemeanors" required by the US Constitution for impeachment

of a sitting president.

Independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr's investigation, which prompted the impeachment hearing, did not cover campaign financing or any other issue except the Lewinsky matter. But committee chairman Henry Hyde, a Republican, insisted that the panel could examine other allegations of presidential wrongdoing.

Hyde said he still hoped to wrap up the inquiry by the end of the month but felt "duty bound" to explore "anything else that comes to our attention," including Justice Department internal memos that may point to wrongdoing by the president.

House Republicans questioned two women prosecuted for lying

in sex cases as they explored whether Clinton should be held to the same standard.

"Because a president is not a king, he or she must abide by the same laws as the rest of us," Barbara Batalino told the committee. The former Veterans Affairs hospital psychologist is serving a home detention sentence after pleading guilty in a case in which she lied about a sexual relationship with a patient.

The carefully scripted hearing came as the Judiciary Committee, just a week before a planned vote on impeachment articles against Clinton, moved behind the scenes to obtain evidence from the Justice Department investigation of fund-raising abuses in Clinton's 1996

campaign. The move made Democrats stew.

One week before a vote is "no time to commence" a new probe into Clinton's campaign finances, Conyers said. "Campaign finance has no relationship" to the sex-and-lying report submitted to Congress by Starr, Conyers said.

Democrats aired several complaints at the hearing.

"The American people and the president still don't know what the charges are," Conyers complained.

Rep. Barney Frank, a Democrat, said Republicans had staged yesterday's hearing to rally support for impeachment articles. "This is an effort to increase votes on the floor because they're in a little bit of trouble," Frank said.

IMF chief meets Russian PM for crisis talks

MOSCOW (Reuters)

International Monetary Fund head Michel Camdessus met Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov yesterday at the start of two days of talks on ways to prevent Russia's economic crisis from spinning out of control.

But Camdessus was not expected to offer any immediate cash, despite warnings by Russian officials that the only alternative to new credits would be printing large amounts of money — a recipe for hyperinflation and further hardship.

"I came to get better acquainted with the prime minister and, I presume, have an interesting conversation with him," Camdessus, the IMF's managing director, said in brief comments to reporters at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport.

Camdessus and Primakov held an "unofficial meeting" ahead of formal talks scheduled for today, Itar-Tass agency quoted the prime minister's press secretary as saying.

"I very much count on the IMF taking a decision to provide help to Russia, help that would avoid hyperinflation," Oleg Syusuev, deputy head of President Boris Yeltsin's administration, told a news conference earlier yesterday.

Yeltsin, who is in a hospital with pneumonia, underlined the importance of the talks by discussing preparations with Primakov before Camdessus arrived. The Kremlin said they also discussed budget problems, but gave no details.

A source close to the Kremlin said hopes of an immediate breakthrough at the talks were almost nil, but Primakov wanted to ensure Camdessus, 65, understood the difficulties Russia faces. The 69-year-old premier at the weekend described some IMF experts as "kids who've seen almost nothing in life."

Russia wants an IMF stamp of approval for its economic plans and for its proposals to reschedule crushing foreign debts.



Iraqi Martyrs' day

Iraqi soldiers stand guard by the Martyrs' Memorial in Baghdad, prior to a ceremony yesterday to mark Martyr's Day, in commemoration of those who died during the Iran-Iraq war. (Reuters)

Chinese police crack down on illegal party

BEIJING (AP) — In an apparent attempt to crush a budding opposition party, Chinese police have

detained two of China's most prominent dissidents and three other democracy campaigners, a human-rights group and relatives of those taken into custody said yesterday.

Police in two cities descended on the homes of Xu Wenli. Qin Yongmin and other members of the China Democracy Party on Monday night and took them away, relatives and the human-rights group said.

The police action was one of the harshest since dissidents announced the formation of the would-be opposition group in June to challenge the ruling Communist Party's monopoly on

power.

Since then, police have questioned, briefly detained and harassed the activists but refrained from filing charges.

Signaling the leadership's resolve to quash any challenges, the party's No. 2, legislative chairman Li Peng, was quoted yesterday as saying that Western-style democracy was inappropriate for China and opposition groups would not be tolerated.

If organizations seek "the multiparty system and try to negate the leadership of the Communist Party, then they will not be allowed to exist," Li told the German business daily, Handelsblatt, in an interview carried by China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Police informed the family of Qin Yongmin yesterday that he was arrested for plotting to overthrow the government, the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said. The crime carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

In taking Xu Wenli from his home Monday night, police produced an arrest warrant and a search warrant that identified him as a criminal suspect, said his wife, He Xitong. Unlike previous occasions when Xu was held only for short periods, she feared this time authorities were planning to charge and convict him.

Twenty police officers ransacked their Beijing apartment, seizing a computer, a fax

machine, address books, video tapes, a typewriter, more than 1,000 pages of documents and even a telephone, she said.

"Xu Wenli has already paid heavily for democracy. I understand that he is ready to pay again," said his wife. "Xu Wenli won't give up."

Qin and Xu are among the most influential figures in China's fractured, persecuted dissident community. Their campaigning started in the Democracy Wall protest movement of the late 1970s.

Xu served all but three years of a 15-year jail sentence, much of it in solitary confinement, and was released in 1993.

Qin was jailed for several years in the 1980s and then again in 1994-95.

WORLD

in brief

Italy PM calls Ocalan "terrorist," urges fair trial

ROME (Reuters) — Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema yesterday explicitly referred to detained Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan as a "terrorist" and said he was working to bring him before a court to face a fair trial.

D'Alema, who has travelled to various European Union capitals to garner support from within the bloc over the Ocalan case, insisted that at the same time attention had to be focused on finding a peaceful solution to the Kurdish question. Turkish President Suleiman Demirel expressed anger earlier with Italian procrastination over the issue.

Germany, France agree on economic priorities

POTSDAM, Germany (AP) — Germany and France agreed yesterday that fighting unemployment should be Europe's top priority.

In a joint declaration at the end of a two-day German-French summit in Potsdam, outside of Berlin, the leaders said a jobs-creation pact is needed to offset years of government austerity measures to get Europe ready for the euro, being launched January 1.

French and German leaders also called for tighter international scrutiny of the financial world to counter damaging swings in the markets.

Both sides set officials to work to assess the possible effects of the new German government's pledge to wean the country off nuclear power. France has no such plans and does lucrative business reprocessing nuclear fuel from German power plants.

Chernobyl repairs delayed

KIEV (AP) — Energy shortages have forced Ukraine to postpone repairs on the sole operational reactor at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant by at least two weeks, officials said yesterday.

Chernobyl's reactor No. 3 would be operating until December 15 before energy authorities decide whether to stop it, a spokesman with the state nuclear energy company Energoatom said.

Ukraine's Nuclear Regulation Administration earlier this month ordered the reactor be shut down yesterday, warning that some safety equipment was reaching the end of its operational life and needed to be upgraded or replaced.

Christian mobs burn two houses in Indonesia

KUPANG, Indonesia (AP) — Christian mobs burned two houses, a car and a motorcycle yesterday on the second day of unrest in a provincial capital of Indonesia where rioters had already burned and ransacked 15 mosques.

In a separate outburst of religious violence, Moslem crowds set afire two homes used for Christian worship as well as a shop and a cinema on Java, Indonesia's main island.

The riots raised fears that tit-for-tat attacks on places of worship will escalate in the world's most populous Moslem nation, which is already enduring severe economic and political turmoil.

Malaysia judge allows Anwar lawyers leeway

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — The judge in Anwar Ibrahim's corruption and sex trial allowed the defense yesterday to try to prove a high-level conspiracy against the sacked Malaysian minister, granting Anwar's lawyers scope he had earlier denied.

High Court Judge Augustine Paul permitted the defence to counter-attack after he had rocked the court by ordering one of the ousted finance minister's lawyers jailed for three months.

On the 17th day of the trial at the heart of Malaysia's simmering civil unrest, the defence scrambled to regain its balance after the judge's shock order on Monday.

Gore picks campaign manager

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice president Al Gore has not formally announced his intention to run for president but he already is putting together his team for a 2000 bid.

White House political director Craig Smith has agreed to be Gore's campaign manager, according to several Democratic officials close to Gore. Smith will be in charge of the day-to-day operation of Gore's campaign if the vice president decides to run.

Smith, 40, worked for then-Gov. Bill Clinton and came to Washington in 1993, serving first in the Democratic National Committee. In 1996, Smith helped coordinate Clinton's campaign efforts.

Hanks: I don't regret giving Clinton fund money

NEW YORK (AP) — A day after The New Yorker magazine reported that Tom Hanks regretted giving \$10,000 to the Clinton legal defense fund, the actor said he still supports the president.

"If I was asked to do it again, I would probably give twice as much," Hanks told reporters.

Hanks had been quoted as saying he regretted making the donation in light of President Bill Clinton's admission that he had an inappropriate relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Lukewarm reelection for Quebec separatists

By DAVID CHARY

MONTREAL (AP) — Like ambivalent boxing judges, Quebec voters gave their combative politicians a split decision: The pro-independence government gets another term in power, but with support so tepid that a secession bid is unlikely any time soon.

The separatist Parti Quebecois retained a large legislative majority in Monday's provincial election, winning 75 of the 125 seats to earn a new term of up to five years.

But the anti-separatist Quebec Liberal Party, though winning only 48 seats, received 44 percent of the popular vote to 43 percent for the Parti Quebecois.

As a result, Liberal leader Jean Charest sounded more buoyant in his remarks to supporters than Premier Lucien Bouchard, the separatist leader, did in his victory speech.

"The result tonight... reflects the fact that the people of Quebec, like the people of all Canada, want this country of ours to work and be a success," said Charest, who will serve as opposition leader in the provincial legislature.

The split decision stems from the geographical distribution of political support in Quebec.

Anti-separatist support is concentrated in about 40 districts, mostly around multi-ethnic Montreal, where the Liberals can rack up huge victory margins. The



Parti Quebecois supporters cheer as they listen to election results in Quebec City on Monday. (Reuters)

separatists, whose backing comes almost entirely from Quebec's French-speaking majority, are competitive in a much larger number of districts spread across the province.

Bouchard, 59, had campaigned on the pledge that he would — if returned to power — call for a referendum on seceding from Canada whenever he felt conditions were right for a separatist victory.

But with only 43 percent support for his party, Bouchard is likely to shelve any immediate push for a referendum and concentrate instead on policies that will build public confidence.

"There is no question that this vote was a vote to elect a government, not a vote to determine the future of Quebec or the future of the country," said Brian Tobin, the premier of Newfoundland.

"I wouldn't expect with these results that Mr. Bouchard will be thinking of a referendum any time soon, if ever."

Bouchard paid tribute to his opponents' determination and pledged to work with them on policy matters. But he also promised to work for the "winning conditions" that would make independence possible eventually.

"Our first priority is to advance

Quebec... to push it further toward its destiny," he said.

The federal government kept a low profile during the 33-day campaign, not wanting to undercut Charest in a province where many francophones are traditionally wary of federal intentions.

Early Tuesday, after the results were known, Prime Minister Jean Chretien assured Bouchard of cooperation in helping strengthen Quebec's economy and social services.

"But when he talks about bringing together his famous winning conditions, which he refuses to reveal, to hold another referendum on separation, he should know we will defend our country," Chretien said.

About 80 percent of the 5.2 million eligible voters cast ballots in Monday's election, high by North American standards but down from 93 percent for the 1995 referendum.

About 83 percent of Quebec's 7.4 million people are French speakers. The rest are divided among English-speakers with long-term roots in Canada and more recently arrived immigrants from southern Europe, Asia and elsewhere.

The long-term crusade for Quebec independence stems from a feeling among many French Quebecers that their culture is different from the rest of Canada, plus a yearning to manage their own affairs and have their own national symbols.

Rated five stars by Judy Siegel.

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It's the poor who pay

The annual poverty figures have been released, and along with them come the annual efforts by politicians to hitch their agendas to the suffering of the poor. If the poor are truly to be helped, the calculus of compassion must be expanded beyond the simplistic debate between social spenders and budget cutters.

The "poverty report" is a product of the National Insurance Institute, an interested party in the budget debate. The NII measures poverty in relation to a poverty line, which is defined as a percentage of the median income. In other words, if the rich get richer, the "poverty line" moves up with them, and more people will fall below it, even if their objective situation has not changed.

The NII reports that in 1997, 16.2 percent of Israelis lived below the poverty line, a slight increase from the previous year. But since a relative yardstick has been applied, all we know from the NII figure is that the gap between rich and poor grew.

The social costs of increasing gaps in income is not negligible, and is potentially a legitimate subject of public concern. But the income gap between 1985 to 1997, a period which saw tremendous change in the Israeli economy, reveals a surprisingly stable, if sobering, picture. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, throughout this 12-year span, the bottom fifth of households survived upon roughly 7% of the national gross income, while the top fifth enjoyed roughly 41%.

The picture painted by these figures is that, despite tax rates among the highest in the Western world and generous policies of social spending maintained by different governments, the large gap between rich and poor remains. There is, it is clear, a point of diminishing returns in the gigantic social exercise of income redistribution. Although such redistribution is necessary, it is also a dead end.

Though the leaders arguing for holding the line on the budget - Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel - are on the right track, they have fallen short in presenting a positive vision of what will help the poor most, and, incidentally, the economy as a whole. Policy makers need not be helpless when it comes to helping the poor, but some of the most important steps that need to be taken are barely on the policy agenda.

The Israeli economy, for example, is riddled with monopolies, oligopolies, and barriers to real competition. Consumer items from milk and electronic goods to apartments and cars are

significantly more expensive than they would be if the interlocking morass of obstacles to competition were removed. The vitality of the high-tech sector and the plummeting prices for international and cellular telephone calls are testimony to the power of competition to revive the economy.

Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, in his address to the US Congress soon after taking office, boasted that he would introduce the word "deregulation" into the Hebrew language. Since then, Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky has gamely forced supermarkets to put prices on their goods, and ordered a review of dozens of competition-busting regulations.

But at this rate it could take decades to disentangle the cozy protected niches that dominate the Israeli economy. Though privatization is lumbering along, the largest candidates for increasing competition, such as the banking sector and the construction and agribusiness cartels, are barely being touched.

The rich, of course, benefit from the system and can afford to pay the high prices. The poor and middle class, in the meantime, are hit both in their wallets and by being deprived of opportunities for economic mobility.

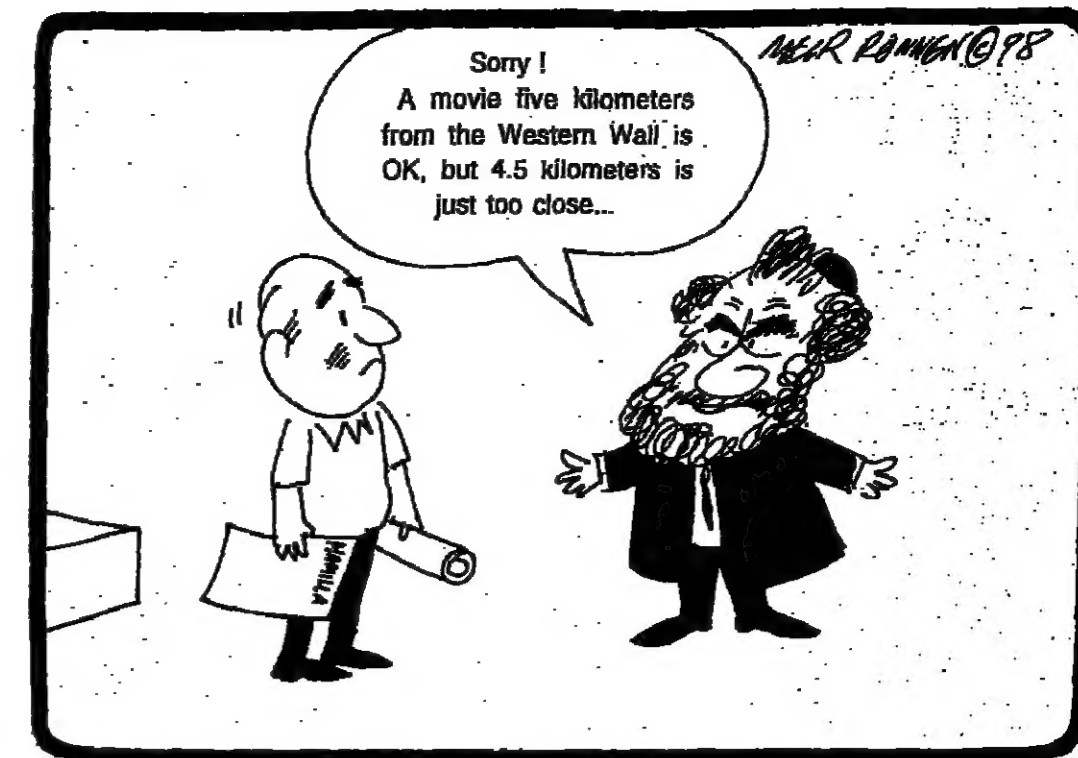
Despite this, the so-called "social lobby" is strangely unconcerned with the cause of increasing competition within the Israeli economy.

In today's tight budget climate, even the social lobby has largely avoided calls for increases in transfer payments, and is instead pushing for lower interest rates and increasing investment in infrastructure, both human and physical. This is a positive change, and a sign that at least lip service must be paid to sensible economics.

Regarding interest rates, yesterday's special cabinet meeting to berate Frenkel and jawbone him into reducing rates was not particularly helpful. Neeman claims that inflation can be kept down without keeping rates as high as they are; perhaps he is right. But the currency and stock markets have been rewarding Frenkel's tough monetary policy, and their professional judgments should not be lightly tossed aside.

As this economic debate swirls above, the plight of the poorest Israelis is often invoked but is rarely seriously dealt with. They must be helped in the short term by plugging holes in the social safety net, particularly through increased backing for job retraining.

In the longer term, however, it is the poor who pay the most for the stultifying structure of much of the Israeli economy, and it is for their sake that this structure should be opened up.



Lebanon without surprises

MOSHE ZAK

Dozens of officers and NCOs in the South Lebanese Army were put on trial during the last few weeks in Beirut and sentenced in absentia to long jail sentences for the crime of serving in the SLA.

The verdicts made no impression on the sentenced soldiers, and it is doubtful whether anyone resigned because of them. The fact is that 700 out of an army of 2,400 serving in the south, have been killed in the last 13 years in attacks by their fellow-citizens from the north, and the SLA's ranks have been and are being replenished with new volunteers.

The southerners didn't panic, even when the IDF refused to assist them in the Jezzina area. The area is under the command of SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad, and isn't part of the security zone. The SLA officers who took upon themselves the responsibility of exclusive control of the Jezzina area wouldn't be frightened off by a trial held behind their backs in Beirut, as long as they could rely on the Israeli presence in the security zone.

But there is no doubt that they will have good reason for concern if the IDF abandons the area to Hizbullah control in an act of unilateral withdrawal from the security zone. The northerners will try to take vengeance on the southerners, and Israel must decide whether it can abandon its allies in this fashion.

In the agreement that Israel signed with the Lebanese government on May 17, 1983 fixing the arrangements for IDF withdrawal from Lebanon, Israel made provision for the fate of the SLA soldiers and it was mutually agreed that they would be incorporated into a special territorial unit of the Lebanese army. The agreement was approved by a majority in the Lebanese Parliament and needed only the signature of president Amin Gemayel.

The Syrians vetoed the pact, and Gemayel was frightened off and didn't sign it. But this can't absolve Israel of its responsibility for the fate of the SLA soldiers if it withdraws from south Lebanon without first making an agreement with the Lebanese government.

THE situation in Lebanon isn't static; there are always changes,

with many coalitions being formed and broken.

It's wrong to think, for example, that the SLA is mostly manned by Christians, though this was once the case. Today, there are many Shi'ites in the SLA, and they are also liable to be exposed to acts of vengeance by Hizbullah.

In the past, the Syrian army struck against the terrorist organizations engaged in terrorist acts against Israel; today Syria assists the terrorist organizations' operations.

It would be nice if the Syrians weren't hearing all facets of our debate before we decide

When the Syrian army wanted to extend its deployment in Lebanon in 1976, American mediators urged Israel to accept this deployment up to Nabatiyeh. They justified this in a manner hard to imagine today, saying that the Syrians were disposing of more Palestinian terrorists at a much higher rate than the IDF.

But today Damascus is a midway station for the airlift bringing arms from Teheran to the terrorists sheltering in Lebanon.

There have also been changes in the identity of the terrorists. Then, the terrorists were from the PLO, and their behavior towards the central government in Lebanon prevented Syria from completing its plan to take control of the whole of Lebanon by accommodation with the Maronite community. But today, the Syrian takeover is complete; Hizbullah does nothing to interfere with relations between Syria and Lebanon.

In the past, Syria was forced to request Israel's permission for its army to move south, and even to accept, through mediators, an Israeli restriction in the form of a "red line" that served as a kind of buffer zone between the Syrian army and the Israeli border.

Today, Syria refuses to discuss any arrangements for the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon without

first being compensated by Israel's withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

The Golan Heights dispute existed then also, of course, but the Syrians didn't link it to the deployment of forces in Lebanon.

Why? Because then the Syrians were afraid of a military response from Israel if the Syrian army even approached the Israeli border. Today, Assad relies on the camouflage net provided by the Hizbullah. He can use it to conduct a war of attrition against Israel by remote control, without being exposed to a direct conflict with Israel.

These changes in the coalitions and conceptions of the Syrians point to Assad's flexibility. Diplomats and journalists keep writing his obituary, citing his failing health. Hundreds of articles have been published in the world media on the struggle for the succession taking place in Damascus. But he just goes on smiling, and each time makes another surprise move - without announcing marathon sessions of the cabinet to take decisions on the situation in Lebanon, as we do. We generally take the whole world into our confidence - and that means Syria, too - regarding all our considerations and hesitations in the face of the difficult situation in Lebanon.

The publicity that closely follows these deliberations blocks off many possible courses of action for us. The initiative that we demand from the IDF in combating terrorism in south Lebanon blows away in the wind of the public debates that substitute secret discussions.

The public debate emphasizes the eroded slogan of unconditional withdrawal, as if it were some kind of cure-all. In these circumstances, that hollow motto replaces the initiative and freshness of thought required from the IDF in finding new approaches to a settlement in Lebanon.

It's true that the Israeli public has a right to know what to expect on the Lebanon front, but the Syrian General Staff has no such right. It doesn't need to be a partner in all the options open to us to increase the struggle against terrorism. Israel's next moves will be more effective if they include the element of surprise.

Pinochet's entrapment

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY

On the Pinochet front you can take the position that what we are looking at is gestating international law to discourage political savagery.

But that vision is defaced by the reality of it all, which is that political passion is the prime mover.

Politics shows its face at many levels. Primary among them is that special bitterness that attaches to any right-wing derailment of a government's march to the Left. An attempt at orderly thought begins by asking the question: Under what authority is Pinochet detained?

There are numerous UN-related resolutions on political crime and responsibility for it. But the events surrounding the detention of Pinochet are an extraordinary improvisation. Suddenly we had five "Law Lords" deciding, on behalf of what seemed the entire world, whether Pinochet should be allowed to return to his home or stay to face extradition proceedings to Spain.

Le Figaro of Paris remarked that "for the first time, perhaps, a juridically incompetent tribunal has rendered a verdict of universal significance. Since no international tribunal exists to judge such events, the English judges took the place of this institution which it is now more necessary than ever to decide to create."

One guesses that the above sounds more lucid in French than in translation, but one is certainly left wondering: When did all legal infrastructure happen?

Just who gave Spain the right to detain a Chilean in Great Britain, for an alleged crime associated with the inherently convulsive affairs of revolution and anti-terrorism?

The easy polarizations are lazy and irresponsible. They tell us that we are seeing a fight between democracy and tyranny. Between human rights and oppression. Between those who believe in the responsibilities of a chief of state and those who take shelter under the pre-Nuremberg idea that subordinates simply carry out orders.

One way to achieve perspective on the situation is to speculate on who might be subject, to similar handling under the Pinochet Protocol. The rules seem to be: Any sometime chief of state in whose regime one or more citizens, or indeed foreigners, were tortured or held hostage, can be held in place and extradited to a plaintiff court.

If Nixon were alive, could he safely have traveled to Great Britain, given the absolute certainty that acts of torture, however isolated, were committed against the Viet Cong during the war? Is there one living former prime minister of Israel who could dare to travel, given his susceptibility under this kind of scrutiny? Will they arrest Gorbachev next time he comes by? It would be a half-day's work to come up with the record of one KGB victim during 1985-1991.

POLITICS is at every level of the current affair. There is a suspicion in some quarters that Prime Minister Tony Blair's continuing pursuit of his left wing brought on first the disavowal of the successor members of the House of Lords and now Pinochet.

What is needed is a device that serves to release Pinochet to go home to his country that doesn't suggest indifference by the British government to human rights and to the attempt gradually to make cosmopolitan life more difficult for bloody dictators.

That device, surely, would focus on the concept of entrapment. General Pinochet had every reason to feel secure when in London, which he had several times visited since leaving office as president of Chile. The sudden imposition of detention, on the motion of a foreign judge, caught Pinochet while in a hospital receiving medical treatment.

Civilized arrangements should distinguish a Pinochet from an Adolf Eichmann, about whom it is reasonable to assume that whatever were the means for finding him and bringing him to justice, they're OK - just get him strung up.

If the various UN resolutions and the mutual legal assistant pacts and assorted understandings are going to prevail to the point of justifying the detention and extradition of such as Pinochet, then let that word get out. That would discourage international movements by former chiefs of state, especially those who, like Pinochet, were especially guilty of the sovereign offense of rescuing their country from a communist takeover.

Those who brought on leftist revolutions will presumably be unmolested. If Baltasar Garçon protested Fidel Castro's recent appearance in Spain, his cries went unheeded.

(Universal Press Syndicate)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

SOUR GRAPES

Sir, - Naomi Chazan's article, "Absenteeism and anarchy," (November 20) is a demonstration of the old adage that "if you keep doing the same thing, but expect a different result, you're showing irrationality." Perhaps the article should have been entitled, "Sour grapes."

The direct election of an individual, be it mayor or prime minister, is the voters' acceptance of the past performance or anticipation of the candidate's future potential to accomplish an agenda with which they are in agreement, and a rejection of the "cronyism" of the established political machines.

The Knesset is a great example

of the old refrain: "every little movement has a meaning [political party] of its own," including MK Chazan's.

It is time for our politicians to start thinking about what is best for Israel, and not merely what will keep their party in power. It will either reinforce and enlarge the existing parties, or eliminate them.

Either way the nation benefits. Too many politicians think the voters are too naive to be given the facts. Perhaps they're right! We put them into office.

Ra'anana.
G.M. DINERMAN

IMMIGRANT ORIGINS

Sir, - Helen Schary Motro's article "Cold Turkey" (November 26), promulgates David Ben-Gurion's long debated theory of erasing all immigrant origins.

I was raised in the 1950s in a Chicago neighborhood with Americans of Jewish, Irish, Polish and Swedish descent. All these groups were good, sometimes wildly patriotic Americans, but this in no way inhibited them from joyously celebrating their myriad holidays from the "old country."

In fact, just the reverse was the case. Their patriotism as Americans freed them to celebrate their national origins without any fear of censure. There was no con-

flict of interest between Thanksgiving and St. Patrick's Day. This kind of skewed reasoning was never even commented upon.

Israel has been my home for the past 22 years and I have happily hosted or attended Thanksgiving dinners in Israel 22 times.

To Helen Schary Motro I can only say, if eating roast turkey, candied sweet potatoes and cranberry sauce is enough to "invite ambivalence, even regret" regarding your aliyah, then in your heart you're already gone.

Jessica Davis-Stein
Jerusalem.

REMEMBER, REMEMBER

Sir, - "Remember remember - the Fifth of November!"

Regarding Helen Schary Motro's nice article "Cold Turkey" (November 26) - it's "Guy Fawkes Night" (not Day). My ex-British blood ran cold! I certainly don't miss it here - we have too many explosions without it!

DORIS HASSON

Haifa.

RUBBER GLOVES

Sir, - The television news recently showed schoolchildren in Tel Aviv clearing up the beach of all the rubbish thoughtless public had left behind.

However, I was very surprised to see that the children were handling the rubbish with their bare hands and not with rubber gloves.

The television reporter asked one of the teachers why the children had not been given gloves and she answered: "We were not issued rubber gloves but the children were instructed not to handle 'certain' rubbish!"

I was very surprised by this reply and I blame the teacher for being irresponsible and not insisting on the children being equipped with rubber gloves in view of the germs that are about now.

Rahel Shraga
Oranit.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On December 2, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that Israel's claim to Jerusalem was formally stated by the President, Dr. Chaim Weizmann, on his first visit to the city since the creation of the state. The president stressed that any foreign rule over "this Jewish city" was inconceivable.

Machine-gun and rifle parts were found by UN observers among the relief supplies in the UN-sponsored convoy carrying food and water to the trapped Egyptians in the Faluja pocket. The convoy was turned back to Gaza.

25 years ago: On December 2,

1973, The Jerusalem Post reported on the death of David Ben-Gurion at the age of 87. His son, Amos, his two daughters, Gaila and Renana, and his personal physician, Dr. Boleslav Goldman, were with him during his last hours.

Alexander Zvielli

سكرا من الاصل

551 סא האל



Shamed by Dad



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

Abba Osh Bushot (*Dad Does Embarrassing Things*), a CD-ROM in Hebrew by CD-Worm of Rosh Hasharon, distributed by Big Multimedia, for ages four to eight, requires Windows 95 and up, NIS 149.

Rating: ★★★★★

Parents are often shamed by their children's bad or foolish behavior. But how often do they look at things from a kid's perspective and realize that they sometimes cause their offspring a lot of embarrassment?

Meir Shalev, the well-known author, wrote a charming book with wry humor — one of the best-selling children's stories in the country — about Ephraim, whose unshaven, ponytailed, sleep-loving father makes him feel ashamed in front of his friends in kindergarten.

This is the second of Shalev's kids' books to be made into an interactive CD-ROM: the first was *Hakama* (Nehama, the Headache).

Technically, CD-Worm did an even better job on this book than the previous one. Ephraim's father leaps across the screen from one scene to another: the background sounds are clever; and eye-catching techniques are used to encourage the young reader to follow the text. But this disk, like the previous one, has a built-in problem: There's a limit to how many times a child can go through the same story, even if a handful of games are offered as teasers.

The story goes like this: Ephraim's mother is a news reporter who wakes up promptly, dresses efficiently, drinks her grapefruit juice and rushes off to work (this isn't me Shalev's writing about; I promise!). Her husband always oversleeps, and then wastes time looking for his clothes. Inevitably, Ephraim consistently arrives late at kindergarten.

He is humiliated when he remembers Dad's habit of wearing short pants to family weddings, getting lost during the annual school trip, and being the only one to fall asleep during a parent-teacher's meeting.

One morning, after finally finding his pants, Dad takes Ephraim ("How he hates that name") to kindergarten on the back of his bicycle, arriving late (as usual) and insisting that he give him a kiss ("If you don't, I'll ask another kid to give me one"). Another day, he offers to take Ephraim and two friends to a movie, but the poor child is beside himself when, during an action scene, his father covers his eyes in fear and asks them to tell him "when it's over."

"My father is a coward," Ephraim complains tearfully to his mother.

Then, one day, Ephraim comes home and tells his parents the kindergarten teacher is holding a cake-baking competition for the mothers. His own Mom, having to run off to "interview the minister of tourism," gives him NIS 20 to buy a cake. But his father decides he will work all through the night to whip one up, and he does — except that it comes out looking like a large, worn-down auto tire.

Donning a white chef's cap, he takes the sad-looking cake and the even sadder-looking Ephraim to class, standing among the mothers while the other fathers sit in the audience. There are tarts, yeast cakes, strudel and marzipan treats — and his father's entry, looking like a real loser.

But when Ephraim's father stabs the cake with his knife, chocolate syrup, sugar roses, strawberries and other decorations pop out magically, astounding everyone present — especially Ephraim.

When the teacher asks where he learned to make cakes, Dad explains that his own father was a baker. Other kids, he adds, had

fathers who were doctors, policemen and metal workers, but he was so ashamed of his father. Everyone starts to laugh — and Ephraim suddenly feels proud of his Dad, ending the story.

The games, claimed on the back of the box to "teach arithmetic, reading and music ('Who here will be the next Mozart?')," are amusing and sometimes imaginative, but not much more than that.

Each of the games can be played at any of three levels of difficulty. When you consider the NIS 149 price of this disk, think of how many Meir Shalev children's books you can buy for that amount. If you don't have a bottomless checking account, opt for the printed stuff and read it to/with your kids.

Talmud Tutor Plus, a CD-ROM in English with some Hebrew/Aramaic texts, by Danka, requires Windows 3.1 and up, distributed by Alan Rosenbaum (02-9992936), for children and adults who don't know anything about Talmud, NIS 139.

Rating: ★★★★★

THIS program is several years old and graphically rather primitive, which explains why it'll run with the Windows operating system that is already two "generations" old. However, it will prove useful to English-speaking people of all ages who want an introduction to the Talmud and don't know where to start.

It explains that the Oral Law was "handed down" by God to Moses and then to 39 other generations of scholars, down to Rav Ashi. It was put down on paper to prevent its being changed, lost or misquoted.

Surprisingly, the disc erroneously differentiates between the Mishna and the Talmud, when in fact the Talmud is the name for the Mishna (which is mostly a legal text with rulings in all areas of Halacha) and the Gemara (which doesn't necessarily reach conclusions but stresses methods of scholarship and analyses based on halachic debate).

The program explains, in short, the hierarchy of orders, tractates, chapters and *mishnayot* and offers two sample lessons (from the Tractate Brachot, about when *Shema Yisrael* may be recited) or another about Grace After Meals (here, the chapter is given as No. 3, when it is in fact chapter 33); there is also a sample lesson from the Aggadah, which consists of stories and anecdotes told by the Sages.

The text can be heard in Ashkenazi or Sephardi Hebrew if you wish (both are recited with an American accent), and the text is shown on a split screen in the original languages and the English translation, plus Rashi's commentary, that scroll down together simultaneously.

There's a useful timeline showing the development of the Talmud from 210 BCE to 500 CE and the major personalities during each period, plus a lesson on various partners, such as Hillel and Shammai and Yosef Ben Yoezer and Yosef Ben Yohanan. Thumbnail biographies on talmudic sages of the various generations of Tannaim and Amoraim are provided with the click of the mouse. There's a simple map of Israel and Babylonia, and a few cities can be clicked to get more information about their relevance to the Talmud.

One of the most useful devices for the talmudic student is an automatic conversion mechanism for finding out equivalents to today's measurements (in metric or American terms) of money, volume, length, grains and area mentioned in the Talmud.

The 13 Hermeneutic Rules of Biblical Exegesis, such as a *fortiori* and same-word relationships, are listed and explained. A large glossary given according to the Hebrew/Aramaic alphabet explains Aramaic terms in English, along with a guide to dozens of abbreviations used in the Talmud. Finally, there's a quiz on all these subjects.

The disk would be dismissed as "much too easy" by any English-speaking yeshiva boy, but anyone in the Diaspora (or English-speakers in Israel) who don't have a clue about Talmud and are curious about it will enjoy this program.

When granny is mom as well

Innovative ideas like GrandFamilies House, a 'mini-village' in Boston, could help answer the prayers of weary grandparents left with children to raise. Elizabeth Mehren reports



Harriet Jackson Lyons, 72, and her granddaughter, Charlene, show off GrandFamilies house, the US's first subsidized housing for grandparents raising grandchildren. (Los Angeles Times)

But US Census Bureau figures show that for a vast and growing number of older Americans, that depiction is false.

Substance abuse, incarceration, AIDS and immaturity are only some of the causes of a missing generation of parents who cannot care for their children. From 1980 to 1990, the number of children being raised by grandparents increased by 44 percent. From 1990 to 1997, the figure went up 23 percent. Today, 1.4 million children live in a grandparent-headed household with no parent present.

"The assumptions of caregiving, the circumstances under which a large number of grandparents are assuming care of their grandchildren, are no longer voluntary," said Florida social worker Lynne Katz, who is conducting a study of grandparent-caregivers at the University of Miami.

The mantra of family preservation buzzes loudly in the ears of judges and family-service officials trying to place abandoned children, Katz said. Faced with the option of taking their grandchildren or seeing them sent to homes, she said, "There are very few grandparents who are old enough or incapacitated

ed enough, or fed up enough to say, 'Fine, put the kids in foster care.'

The phenomenon crosses class and ethnic lines, but is most pronounced among poor, minority populations. Although 5 percent of children nationally are being raised by grandparents, in Dorchester — the largely black, low-income Boston neighborhood where GrandFamilies House is located — the figure is 10 percent.

RECENT research by the three agencies that created the project — BAC-YOU, the YWCA of Boston and Women's Institute for Housing and Economic Development — showed the grandparents in the city to be "overwhelmingly" black women aged 50 to 86. Most lived on fixed annual incomes of \$5,000 to \$15,000, and many showed significant health problems associated with age.

In addition, the elderly caregivers faced daunting bureaucratic obstacles. Unlike foster parents, grandparents raising their grandchildren receive neither insurance nor monthly stipends. Often they are living off retirement incomes that were strained with one person in the home.

Schools and health centers do not always recognize grandparents as primary caregivers, and welfare reform policies that expect parents to be working are no more forgiving for grandparents.

Elder meal programs, a mainstay for many low-income grandparents, cease when a child comes on the scene. Clothes often come from donation programs, a tough sell for teenagers who yearn for brand-name items. Young people also often long to participate in costly after-school sports.

Then there is the personal energy component. If 20-year-olds complain of exhaustion when they are raising babies, consider the plight of a 75-year-old. By definition, grandparenting is supposed to imply selectivity, the right to send the grandkids home when you're tired.

At GrandFamilies House, some septuagenarians are looking at 20 more years of child-rearing.

"Of course we resent it. Of course we're angry," said Lyons, who organized a support group called ROCC, Raising Our Children's Children, that numbers about 200 members. "Of course we wonder what we did wrong as par-

ents. And, as grandparents, we hope we won't repeat those mistakes.

"But that's what we think about when we have time. Mostly we're too busy, and we're too tired."

FINANCING for GrandFamilies House drew on federal, state and city funds, as well as donations. An innovative interpretation of federal Housing and Urban Development regulations allows most tenants to receive rent subsidies.

With its wide hallways to accommodate walkers, wheelchairs and strollers, GrandFamilies House also boasts a 4,000-square-foot basement where Boston's YWCA will offer exercise sessions for seniors and teenagers. Other preschool, after-school and evening programs will include computer classes, where grandparents can learn alongside their grandchildren.

But as residents continue to move into the just-opened facility, the hope is also that the building will become a self-contained community, where elders who, by dint of fate, have found themselves at a different stage of life from many of their peers will support one another. (Los Angeles Times)

Problems are the same the world over



By Ruth Mason

To those of you who like the works of Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish (*Liberated Parents, Liberated Children; How to Talk so Kids Will Listen and Listen so Kids Will Talk; Siblings Without Rivalry and How to Talk so Kids Can Learn — At Home and In School*), we bring good news.

The writing team who popularized the teachings of child psychologist Haim Ginott have published a four-page newsletter on child-rearing that includes summaries of important studies, insights and experiences from parents who have applied their ideas, letters from around the world, and more.

The Faber/Mazlish Forum offers the chance of connecting with parents all over the world and picking up ideas for tackling the challenges posed by one's own family. And it takes less than 10 minutes to read.

The authors write: "This newsletter is published as a free service to all those who care about communicating with children in ways that are both effective and respectful."

Issue No. 3 features letters from parents in China, Quebec and Australia.

"It seems that parents everywhere, no matter how different the culture, are struggling with very similar problems," Faber and Mazlish write.

They quote a parent from Poland, where their books are best-sellers: "For years we have been

under Communist rule. Now we have political freedom, but your books show us how to be free within ourselves — how to give respect to ourselves and respect to our families."

Here's one practical tip from a recent newsletter: The parents of a 16-year-old girl who likes to stay out late needed to find a solution to the curfew dilemma. They told her: "You have a right to enjoy a night out with your friends. We have a right to a worry-free evening. We need to figure out something that will satisfy all of us."

The girl and her parents sat down to a problem-solving session and came up with the following idea: She would come home between 11:30 and midnight. Since the parents liked to go to bed early, they would set their alarm clock for 12:15, in case something unforeseen happened and their daughter was delayed for 15 minutes. As soon as the girl got home, she would turn off the alarm. That way she would get to have her fun, and her parents would get a peaceful night's sleep.

The parents concluded: "Our agreement held. Jody lived up to her part of the bargain and made it her business to 'beat the clock' every time."

The process this family went through illustrates some basic Faber/Mazlish principles: telling children what our expectations are; inviting their help in solving a problem; speaking to their sense of responsibility and treating them as if they already are what you hope them to become.

And some food for thought from the same issue: "A recent Rand Corporation study reported that a million dollars invested in prisons prevents only 60 crimes a year. The same investment in parent training can prevent 258 crimes a year."

For a sample copy of the newsletter, write to: Faber/Mazlish Forum, P.O. Box 64, Albion, NY 11057, USA.

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DRIVE CAREFULLY! ARRIVE SAFELY!

Corner



By Batsheva Mink

As the temperature drops and the sun slides inexorably toward the solstice, we may be forgiven for not thinking much about our gardens. After all, the long hot summer is past, the trees are losing their leaves, and the new bulbs are sleeping snugly in the earth.

Yet the show is far from over. Autumn can seem like the off-season for gardeners. Most gardeners are, in fact, beginning to put away their tools and looking forward to some comfortable "armchair" gardening - books and plans for next year.

Many gardeners tuck their borders up for winter soon after the first few cold nights. One gardener I know says, "Don't visit my garden; it is finished."

But I consider late autumn to be one of the busiest times for the gardener. We can take pleasure in our garden long after the summer flowers have passed, though this requires some work during the period - two months or more in length - in which the garden winds down towards winter.

Every job during this period is aimed at getting the garden ready for spring flowering time. The more you do to prepare for planting bulbs, annuals, perennials, trees and shrubs, the better the results in late winter and early spring. Carefully planted, tended and well-planned borders can remain attractive well into winter.

During this period, the very best gardeners will be found with little time to plant. Every few days, the border looks as if a hungry herd of deer has passed through the garden. "There is all the cutting-back and clearing up to do," they say, pruning shears in hand.

It is true that gardens need to be tidied in autumn: Dead unsightly foliage, collapsed stems and other rubbish must be cleared away, together with the plant supports.

This process is good for hygiene, and allows for the removal of weeds that may have snuck in among the roots under cover of foliage, and would reach a stranglehold by spring.

We should perhaps be a little selective in our autumn clean-up and leave alone things like the feathery heads of the grasses.

By this time, of course, the bulk of perennials, annuals and shrubs have lost their luster, but there are

many brave-hearted plants that continue long after summer fades. Gardeners should always make room for a few plants to be included especially for their autumn effects.

In this sense, autumn belongs to grasses, for many that went unnoticed during the year can provide us with glorious color at the end of the year. Grasses are often planted for the ornamental effect of summer color, but they also contribute the precious gift of autumn color when there are fewer sources of color in our gardens.

Ornamental grasses are more than just a novelty; their many forms and colors bring freshness and vitality to the garden, while their sturdiness and resistance to disease make them especially welcome.

Grasses blend well with other garden plants and can be used in a variety of landscape situations. They provide height and volume, ordinarily expected of slower-growing shrubs and perennials.

Probably the best grasses are members of the genus *Miscanthus* (Heb. *miscanthus*). Many of these unusual grasses, natives of China and Japan, have become available in Israel over the last few years.

For autumn color, the choice narrows to a red grass (*Miscanthus sinensis Purpurascens*). In the autumn, each blade of the *miscanthus* tints to dull red with streaks of pumpkin orange or rose. It never actually turns purple as its name might suggest, but it maintains a wonderful color for at least two months.

My favorite, *M. sinensis Zebrinus* ("zebra grass") has green and yellow variegated leaves, with the yellow crossbanding at intervals on the arching leaves. It grows to 1 to 2 meters tall.

The purple fountain grass (*Pennisetum setaceum Rubrum*; Heb. *ziff-nota zaponit*) looks more like a dark wine-red color, and is an excellent plant for dry, sunny areas. The graceful plumes appear in early September and continue well into December. It is not a demanding plant and needs very little water after it is established. Its approximate height and spread is 1.2 m x 60 cm.

Among the shorter-growing grasses are the blue grasses (*Festuca glauca*, Heb. *ben afar mehil*) which grow up to 30 cm. and keep their blue color for most of the year.

The well-known, majestic pampas grass (*Cortaderia argentea*; Heb. *cortaderia*) grows best in isolation or against a background



of evergreen plants. It should be planted in early spring. It grows to between 2 and 3 meters, making an impressive sight from midsummer to early winter. A shorter form is available for smaller gardens.

One of the longest-lasting perennials (*Penstemon barbatus* Heb. *penstemon*) has foxglove-like flowers and grows up to 60 cm. in height. These elegant flowers start to flower in late April and go well into December, long after other perennials have given up the ghost.

At the Botanical Gardens in Jerusalem we planted a large bed of this variety, which had to be cut down in July and began flowering again three weeks later. They are still flowering.

They grow best in full sun and must be cut back in July to produce a second flush of flowers. This keeps them flowering continuously until the end of December.

At the end of the year, even if they are still flowering, it would be advisable to cut them back so they can build up strength for next year's flowering. Give them a

good top dressing of compost toward the end of February. Propagate them from cuttings 8-12 cm. in length.

Batsheva Mink is a curator of the Jerusalem Botanical Gardens, Givat Ram.

Your gardening questions and comments are welcome. Contact Batsheva Mink, POB 3943, Jerusalem 91039.

TIP OF THE WEEK

To learn which plants will linger longest in your garden, try regular, light grooming rather than a full-scale autumn clean-up. Visit other gardens, and note plants that retain their looks in autumn.

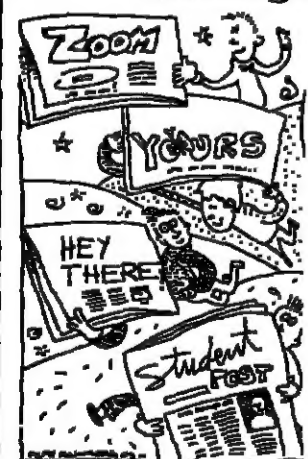
Add a few late bloomers each year, and you will gradually transform your garden into one that combines the bright beauty of summer with the glory of autumn.



Autumn belongs to grasses: (Left) The elegant penstemon goes on well into December; (right) the majestic pampas grass grows best in isolation, or against an evergreen background.

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Heads 'N' Tails



By D'vora Ben Shaul

A young couple at a recent dog show were totally crushed when their beautiful German shepherd, a young male, was disqualified because he had dewclaws on both back legs.

They had deliberately chosen a breed that did not need to have its tail docked or its ears clipped, they said later. When they first saw the puppy they had ordered, at two days of age, the breeder asked if he should remove the dewclaws. They had told him not to do so, not realizing the implications of their decision.

Now, they said, the veterinarian told them that to remove the claws would require surgery complete with anesthetic and sutures. Since they really had their hearts set on exhibiting their dog and had already completed two levels of obedience with him, they were quite upset.

"Why should this matter?" they ask. Dewclaws are vestigial claws on the lower front leg, above the normal foot pad with its natural claws, and they appear in many dogs of varying breeds.

The dewclaws are barely noticeable in a newborn puppy, but if not removed they develop into a rather large, pendulous glob of tissue, with a non-functional claw in the middle. These are not only rather unsightly, but often get caught in various materials; and when pulled free, they cause wounds on the fleshy part of the appendage.

The best way to handle this problem is to remove the dewclaws on the second day of life or not later than the fourth day. At this point the operation is simple, leaves no visible scar and the puppy does not seem to suffer.

Many breeders remove the dewclaws themselves, but an ordinary person with a new litter in the house should take the bitch and her pups in a carrier or carton and go to a veterinarian. The operation takes seconds for each puppy, and it is immediately returned to its mother, who will lick and clean the minuscule wounds.

Do not be surprised if your veterinarian does not use any anesthetic on the wound: it would only deter the mother from licking it, and her attention is the most effective.

If the dewclaws are not removed at the proper time and you want to be rid of them later, there is no choice but to have it done under

anesthetic and with sutures. This means that you may have to put a "bucket-collar" on the dog for a few days to prevent his licking and tearing the sutures. If done properly, the surgery should not leave a scar.

Why should this be important to dog-show judges? It really shouldn't, but for every

breed there is an agreed standard, and the standards for almost all breeds specify no dewclaws. It is true that a smooth-legged dog is far more attractive when running and jumping around on its legs and, as said above, these supernumerary claws are extremely prone to accidental wounding.

Two claws too many



MEIR RONNEN © 98

5501 מן הארץ

'Antz' wins battle of the bug flicks

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

Comparisons between the delightful *Antz* (which opens in Israel tomorrow) and the brand-new *A Bug's Life* (which has just opened in the US and is due to arrive in Israel in March) are inevitable and instructive.

Both computer-animated fables – the former from DreamWorks and special-effects house PDI, the latter from Disney and Pixar Animation Studios – are set in ant colonies threatened by scary insects (termites in *Antz*; grasshoppers in *A Bug's Life*). Both have different-drummer heroes who step out of line and save the day.

Curiously, the reddish-brown population of *Antz* has six legs; the cuddly protagonists of *A Bug's Life* are colored a lavender-gray pastel and have only four limbs.

Each is a diverting and well-made spectacle, but whereas the sophisticated *Antz* has a cross-generational appeal and a witty adult subtext about conformity, the more juvenile humor of *A Bug's Life* seems to be going almost exclusively for the Happy Meals crowd.

Antz opens with its neurotic arthropod hero (voiced by Woody Allen) whining on a psychiatrist's couch. When we meet the star of *A Bug's Life*, he's dropping an in-joke reference to Disney's feature-length kiddie-cartoon *The Lion King*.

"It's one of those 'Circle of Life' kinds of things," cracks Flik (Dave Foley), explaining why his fellow ants are forced to donate a portion

of their yearly harvest to the thug-like grasshoppers, led by the vicious Hopper (Kevin Spacey).

Before you know it, the klutzy Flik has accidentally destroyed the colony's amassed crops, enraging not only Hopper and his hungry pals, but Flik's exhausted fellow colonists. Banished from Ant Island by an irate queen (Phyllis Diller), the misfit sets off for the big city to find reinforcements to defend his home from the long-legged extortionists.

Through a misunderstanding, the ace band of mercenaries he thinks he is recruiting turns out to be an inept troupe (not troop) of performing circus bugs, featuring a stick bug (David Hyde Pierce), a dung beetle (Brad Garrett), a gypsy moth (Madeline Kahn), a ladybug (Denis Leary) and a caterpillar (Joe Ranft).

The punning, borschi-belt humor comes fast and furious in the teeming metropolis, where Flik first encounters the bungling urban buskers: a fly sits begging in the gutter next to a sign saying "Kid pulled my wings off"; in a restaurant another bug shouts, "Waiter, I'm in my soup!"; two mosquitoes in a bar order "Bloody Marys, type O-positive."

Many of the one-liners are groan-inducing, but there are enough of them that do work to keep the scene zippy.

It's an infusion of zip that's sorely needed, because the chief deficiency of *A Bug's Life* so far is its blandness. I know all ants look alike, but there's a visual uniformity to this latest batch that makes it hard to tell one from the other by

sight. Thank God for the arrival of the colorful city critters!

The film's other weakness is the low-octane vocal performances of its leading cast.

In *Antz*, you have Sharon Stone, Gene Hackman and Sylvester Stallone. *Bug*, on the other hand, makes do with Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Kevin Spacey and the little-known child actress Hayden Panettiere in the corresponding roles of love interest, heavy and best friend.

They're all adequate, to be sure, but they somehow lack the oomph, the edge, of the earlier film's stars. And the milquetoast Foley is no Woody Allen, to say the least.

Still, most young children won't even notice the lack of personality. The action-figure-ready supporting cast will provide sufficient dazzle with their silly circus slapstick, and many wee audience members will closely identify with the last-minute heroics of the toddler ant Dot (Panettiere).

Parents and other adults, however, looking for a little more return on their intellectual investment are advised to stay through the closing credits, where director John Lasseter has inserted a hilarious series of fake animated "outtakes."

If you can talk your fidgeting charges into sitting still for an extra minute, the irreverent, self-referential bonus humor of these last few seconds will be for many the best thing about a film that aims to please only by aiming for the ankle-biters.

(The Washington Post)



Z (left, voice by Woody Allen) and Princess Bala (Sharon Stone) believe they have stumbled upon Insectopia in 'Antz.'



'I'm into disagreement. It forces people to think,' says Rollins.

Henry Rollins seeks glory in Tel Aviv

By HELEN KAYE

There are Henry Rollins web pages all over the Internet. His fans come in all ages, shapes and colors, but most often they're young.

He started his professional life in 1981 as the vocalist of a punk rock band called Black Flag and formed his own Rollins Band rock group five years later. Along the way he created his own publishing label, 2-13-61, named for his own birthday, because there were things he wanted to say on just about everything.

Inevitably, he started saying them out loud, to audiences. He made them laugh. He goosed, enraged, riled, needed, tormented, challenged, confronted, and enlisted his audiences. He talks in absolutes. Takes stances in this equivocating age. Exults in being outrageous.

He's coming next week for a single appearance with his newest talking act, *Think Tank*. The performance will be on Saturday, December 12, at the Enav Center in Tel Aviv.

"I'm into disagreement," he said in a recent interview. "It forces people to think, to flex their minds."

He doesn't mind being compared to Richard Pryor and the late Lenny Bruce, saying that his humor shares their desire to call attention to the various insanities of society.

He is against drugs, alcohol and tobacco because they contribute to mundanity and mediocrity, but Rollins's major loathing focuses on prejudice of any kind. In a uni-

versity show he did last summer, he spoke of visiting Auschwitz when he and the band were on tour in Poland.

"I walked out of there with a very extreme sense of right and wrong," he said, and nobody was laughing. "There are always these corny arguments about right and wrong at 3 a.m.," in which an absolute is made relative, "but there is right and there is wrong and what happened over there was wrong. I didn't think I hated anybody till I came out of that place."

He's been doing what he calls speaking engagements since 1983, right along with making music. This year is the first that Rollins has been on the road without a band, mainly because the album he calls his favorite, *Come In & Burn*, flopped with the public, although the critics praised it.

The Rollins Band made four other well-received albums between 1987 and 1997, and Rollins has made two other spoken-word albums, some of which have been "sanitized for radio broadcasts and in-store play."

He doesn't waste time on self-pity, calls himself "an aging rock icon" without a quiver in his shows, and adds "I've got to keep it real... [otherwise] I shouldn't be out there." Nonetheless, Rollins is going ahead with a solo rock album next year.

Apathy and mediocrity are for the fainthearted. To quote the man himself: "I refuse not to be fascinated. I refuse not to be obsessed. A wife and children is not going to cut it for me. I'd rather have confrontation, exhaustion, failure and glory."

Making love with the music

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

When the Great Musicians at the Center series of chamber-music concerts presented at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center opens next Tuesday, the stage will be shared by five very young Israeli musicians who have already been marked as stars of the future.

It is a most appropriate way to open such a series, which showcases the best Israel can offer in the very competitive field of chamber music.

At a time when the chamber-music ensemble is trying to find its way back into the local classical music scene, and when young musicians form trios, quartets and quintets on a regular basis, Israel is still searching for an ensemble like the glorious Yuval Trio or Tel Aviv Quartet of yesteryear.

There is no doubt that the best contenders for the title at the moment are four young vivacious Jerusalemians who comprise the Jerusalem Quartet.

The four, all members of the IDF's "outstanding musician" program, have a joie de vivre that is lacking in many ensembles that perform today. Their musicianship, sincere interpretation, deep devotion and exuberant youthfulness combine into a most exciting whole. This is an ensemble music lovers should hear time and again.

After playing Schubert and Haydn in the first part of the concert, the Jerusalem foursome will be joined by a somewhat older, yet still young Israeli musician with an international career.

Clarinetist Sharon Kam says that she knew when she was 12 that she "was destined to play the clarinet as a soloist."

She was told that "it's impossible and that I just cannot do such things," she recalls. But Kam proved all her former advisers wrong. The flamboyant sabra, who now makes her home in Germany, is undoubtedly one of the leading interpreters of the clarinet these days.

Kam's three discs on the Teldec label feature not only her passionate playing, which reveals all the clarinet's inner colors and sub-



Clarinetist Sharon Kam proved her advisers wrong. (Israel Sun)

ties in a way that suggests that she is at one with the instrument, but also the three faces of Kam on the respective covers.

On one she is vivacious and flamboyant, on the second much more subdued, yet very sexy, and on the third and latest one can see a woman much more mature, but with a suggestive look that is as mysterious and revealing as her music-making. "No one likes seeing his photographs, even if they are the best photos in the world. We all have a notion of how we want to see ourselves and no picture can convey that," she says. Music critics all over the world

describe Kam's playing as "sensual on the verge of sexual," as if she makes love to the instrument while she performs on it. Kam is aware of that and can explain the sensation.

"I always feel that I'm making love to the clarinet when I play on it. We play music that is about feelings and the best way to express feelings is when you make love."

The combination of Sharon Kam and the Jerusalem Quartet, December 8 at 8:30 p.m. at the TAPAC, is bound to be an electrifying musical experience and a feast for all the senses.

A rich, round Bach

CLASSIC DISCS

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

After a lengthy anticipation, the first samples of the new Bach edition, which is to feature the entire output of Johann Sebastian Bach on discs and to be completed within about two years, are out. The Bach edition will be a compilation of existing recordings from the extensive German label Hansler catalog side by side with new recordings of works not previously recorded by this first-rate label as well as new versions of works already in their catalog.

The most intriguing and rewarding new recording is *The Art of Fugue BWV 1030* (Hansler Edition 134, CD 92.134), one of Bach's most famous works, which has been performed and recorded by numerous musical combinations from the modern piano to the string quartet.

Here Robert Hill, who explains his choice of the harpsichord for this recording in detail in a very interesting and informative article in the always extensive four-language (German, English, French, Spanish) Hansler booklet, presents a most powerful reading of the many small movements that comprise this opus.

Although the harpsichord is considered at times as a cold, detached and somewhat alienating instrument, under Hill's fingers it comes alive in an almost fiery way. Hill presents a very cohesive reading of this opus in which each fugue leads in a very logical and intricate way to the next one.

The sound is rich, round and as far from remote as can be with this instrument, and the interpretation suggests that there is a lot in *The Art of the Fugue* which has still to be discovered.

Violinist Dmitry Sitkovetsky presents the solo violin works in a most restrained and intriguing way in his new recording, *Sonatas & Partitas for Solo Violin, BWV 1001-1006* (Hansler Edition 119 CD 92.119). In this new rendition of the ever-popular solo violin works by Bach, Sitkovetsky reveals himself as a master of the instrument who delves deep into the music yet performs it in a rather remote way. His performance, which is technically flawless, lacks fire and passion.

The first album in this new Bach edition features the first three cantatas of Bach, *Cantatas BWV 1-3* (Hansler Edition 1 CD 92.001) performed by the renowned Gächinger Kantorei and the Bach Collegium Stuttgart under the baton of Helmuth Rilling, who inaugurated these ensembles and is one of the leading forces behind this new Bach edition.

These older recordings (ranging from 1988 to 1991) are first-rate and when presented in chronological order provide the listener with an opportunity to comprehend them in the way they were composed and follow the progression of the composition process. The performance is, as usual with these ensembles, first-rate and Rilling breathes power and beauty into the text and music alike.

The Hansler Bach Edition should be part and parcel of every music lover's library. It is the perfect way to enjoy Bach's music in general and to follow its chronological development at the same time.

French jazz percussionist to drum up some local heat

By HELEN KAYE

The musicians who have worked with percussionist Mino Cinelu on their recent albums are a who's who of the jazz world; names like Brandford Marsalis, Pat Metheny and Wayne Shorter. Not to mention Lou Reed or pianist Kenny Barron, with whom he made the very well-received album *Swamp Sally* last year.

Arguably one of the finest jazz percussionists in the world, the French-born Cinelu, 41, is also a guitarist, composer, singer, arranger and producer who has been based in New York since 1979. He's the featured soloist together with the local jazz band Esta in the second of the World Jazz Series programs from December 9 to 11.



Mino Cinelu

He started off with the guitar, but had transferred to percussion by the time he made his profes-

sional debut at age 16. He started his international career on drums with Miles Davis, playing with Weather Report from 1981 to 1986. He's also played with Sting, Elton John and Akiko Yano, done a lot of gigs with Michel Portal, and the list goes on.

He has given concerts to promote human rights, done a world tour on behalf of Amnesty International and played the accordion, flute and percussion for the 1996 film *Dead Man Walking*. He has also composed and played the music for several documentaries.

The concerts are at the Tower of David Museum in Jerusalem on December 9 at 8:30 p.m., and at the Tel Aviv Museum on December 10 at 9 p.m. and December 11 at 9:30 p.m.

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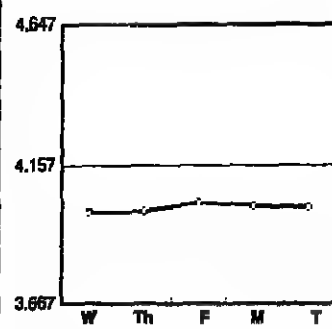
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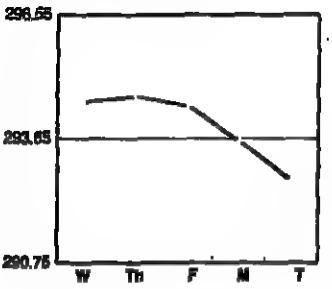
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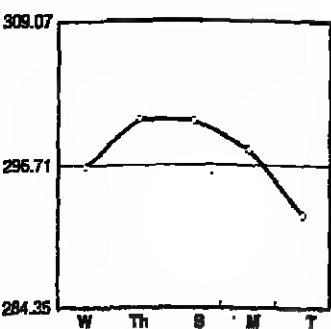
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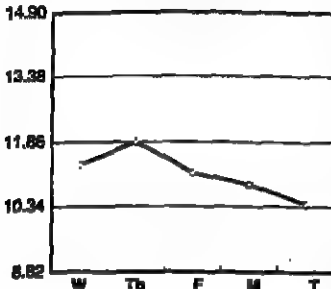
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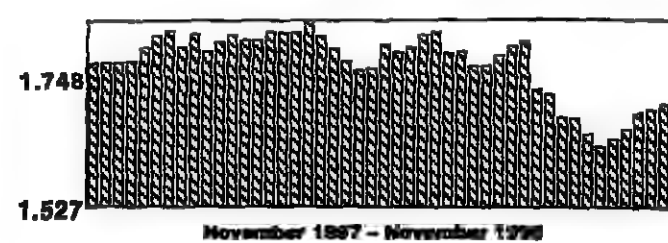
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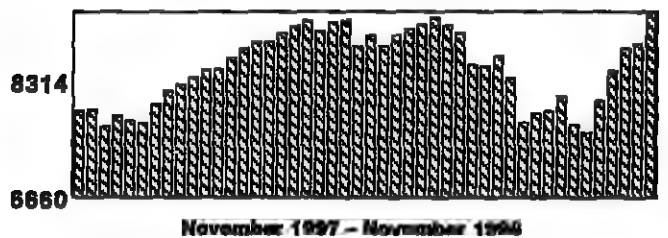
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Teva receives FDA approval

Teva Pharmaceutical Industries announced that it has received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to manufacture and market Isosorbide Mononitrate tablets, a cardiovascular drug. The company said that the treatment is the generic equivalent of drugs produced by Schwarz and Wyeth Ayerst, with US annual sales of some \$40m. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Forsoft wins \$3m. Knesset contract

Leading information technology services provider, ForSoft, has been awarded a \$3 million outsourcing contract for the Knesset it was announced this week. The five-year contract was awarded to ForSoft, a member of the Formula Group, after a public tender. The Herzliya company, which is traded on NASDAQ, will become the Israeli parliament's computer outsourcing supplier. *Nicky Blackburn*

Israelis buy foreign property for \$236m

Israelis have purchased foreign properties for some \$236 million since the government announced the currency liberalization last May, which removed restrictions on investment of Israeli citizens abroad. The figures were supplied yesterday by the commercial real estate firm Colliers International which plans a special fair for Israelis interested in buying properties in London. The London-Israel fair would be held next week in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and is organized by Colliers and Anglo-Saxon. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

GartnerGroup Holds Y2K Conference

The world's leading research and advisory company in the field of information technology is to hold a conference on the Year 2000 crisis at the Holiday Inn in Tel Aviv on December 7. The conference, which has been organized by the Middle East division of the GartnerGroup, will examine how companies can prepare themselves for the Year 2000 problem, and make a prediction about what might happen on January 1, 2000.

The conference will also discuss the short and long term effects of the impending European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) which will go into effect next year. Speaking at the conference are two of the GartnerGroup's top European experts - Andy Krys, VP of Y2K and applications development, and Nick Jones, VP and program director of EMU strategies. *Nicky Blackburn*

SA retail chain launches 'Israel Month'

Pick 'n Pay Stores, one of the three largest supermarket chains in South Africa, launched last week an Israeli food festival in its 265 stores. Osem Investments, Israel's second largest processed foods manufacturer, said yesterday that its products will be presented at the fair as part of its attempt to enter the South African market. Osem's products would be imported to South Africa by the local subsidiary of Swiss food giant Nestle, which controls 47 percent of Osem. *Dan Gerstenfeld*

Treasury D-G blames central bank for inflation jump

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Had the Bank of Israel intervened in currency trading since Succot, the depreciation of the shekel would have been less significant and inflation would not have shot up, Treasury Director-General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb told the cabinet yesterday.

At the end of the day-long meeting, ministers failed to make concrete proposals for revitalizing the economy. They agreed to meet early next year to reexamine macro economic issues, especially the 1999 inflation target. At that same meeting, the Treasury will offer a fresh list of proposals for investment in infrastructure projects in a bid to renew economic growth.

Addressing a special meeting on the state of the economy in general

and the 1999 inflation target in particular, Zilberfarb said there is no need for the central bank to intervene on a daily basis but added "total [central bank] abstention from activity in the market is also undesirable."

He attacked the central bank for relying solely on one tool - the setting of interest rates - rather than also using other means for keeping the shekel's performance in check.

"Activity of the Bank of Israel as a market maker would have prevented a big jump in the exchange rate as a response to comparatively small demand for foreign currency," said Zilberfarb. This would have provided sufficient liquidity to the market, reduced the shekel mountain and increased long-term stability, he maintained. "As a result, we estimate, the depreciation and the

subsequent increase in prices would have been less steep."

Zilberfarb did back Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel's recent statement that he and Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman agreed during Succot not to intervene, but Zilberfarb added that decision was taken on the basis that the depreciation was a one-off. After a week of continued losses against the basket of currencies, the Treasury called on the central bank to rethink the issue. The central bank did not then intervene. Over the last three months, the shekel has depreciated 15 percent against the dollar and inflation increased some 6%, Zilberfarb told ministers.

Frenkel told the meeting that direct intervention on a daily basis could have encouraged a speculative attack on the shekel, and would

thus affect economic stability and the chances for renewed growth. Frenkel told ministers that conditions have been created allowing for a real-term depreciation of the shekel, which would improve the economy's ability to compete.

Neeman urged that no decision be taken to change the 1999 inflation target this year and only after a longer-term analysis of the market's performance should the cabinet think about raising the 4% goal. He reminded ministers that this had been Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's advice when the subject was last debated in cabinet in August. Neeman offered similar advice on the reform of the Bank of Israel. No rushed decisions should be made until a public committee investigating the issue reports back to cabinet towards the end of

December. An increasing number of MKs are pushing for the creation of a board of governors as proposed in a private members bill from Avraham Shohat (Labor). Frenkel maintains the nature of the bank's decision-making process should only be a part of a wider overhaul of the existing Bank of Israel Law, passed in 1954.

Meanwhile, Knesset Economics Committee Chairman Amnon Rubinstein yesterday called on the Industry and Trade Ministry to determine whether chain stores increased their prices by more than 10% in order "to catch a lift" on the back of the depreciation. In recent weeks, the costs of a broad range of products have risen sharply, many of which are not linked to the performance of the shekel against foreign currencies.

Israel's Corp. net down 36%

COMPANY RESULTS

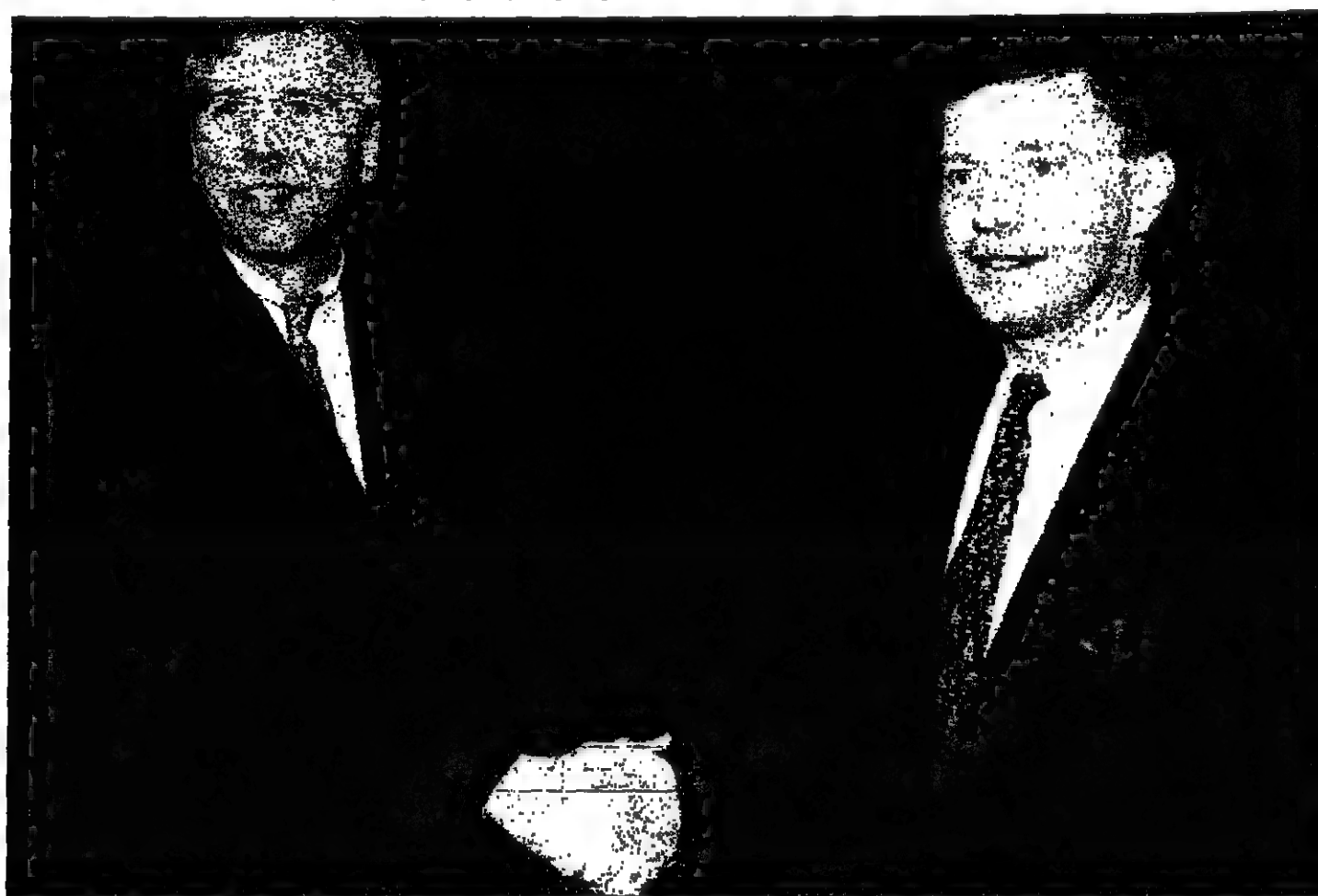
The Israel Corp. yesterday announced that third-quarter net profit fell 35.6 percent to NIS 38.17 million from NIS 59.28m. a year earlier, despite the fact that revenues remained almost unchanged at NIS 5.4 billion.

Net profit for the first nine months rose to NIS 364.3m. from NIS 343m. in the previous year, while revenues fell to NIS 15.3b. from NIS 16.4b. a year earlier. The Israel Corp. recorded a capital gain of NIS 171.5m. from the sale of several subsidiaries, compared with only NIS 13.7m. in 1997.

The company said that the decline in revenues is an outcome of the fact that the results of companies which were sold during the first three quarters of the year were not included in the report.

It added that the decline also can be attributed to a sharp decrease in revenues of its oil refineries subsidiary, which moved into the red, posting a loss of some NIS 6m. for the first nine months compared with NIS 19.4m. a year earlier. The decline was attributed to a sharp decrease in the prices of crude oil.

The holding company's results were positively affected by an increase in the profits of some of its subsidiaries, including Israel Chemicals and Zim, the Israel Navigation Corp.



Another oil merger

Francois Cornelia (left) CEO of Petrofina, Belgium, and Thierry Desmarest, CEO of Total SA, France, shake hands in Brussels after announcing a merger that will make the new company the world's sixth largest oil group. The announcement coincides with one by Exxon that it will buy Mobil, a move that will create the world's largest petrochemicals concern. (Reuters)

Exxon to pay \$86 billion for Mobil

 By TERENCE FLANAGAN
and GEORGE STIEN

Exxon Corp., the biggest US oil company, has said it will buy Mobil Corp. for about \$86 billion in stock and assumed debt in the largest acquisition ever, creating the world's largest publicly traded oil company. Mobil shareholders will receive 1.32015 Exxon shares for each Mobil share, valuing the offer at \$99 a share, a 32-percent premium to Mobil's closing price on November 24, before investors began speculating on a merger.

Exxon and Mobil, the No. 2 US oil company, are combining as crude prices hover at the lowest in almost 12 years and earnings have plummeted. The companies plan to make \$2.8 billion in annual cost reductions.

The new company, which will be known as Exxon-Mobil, will have a market value of about \$250 billion.

Together, an Exxon-Mobil combination has 22 percent of the US gasoline market, refines more oil than any company in the world and ranks first among the Fortune 500 companies based on revenue.

The merger reunites the biggest pieces of John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil monopoly, which was

broken up by an antitrust ruling by the US Supreme Court 87 years ago. (Bloomberg)

Bridging the Arab-Israeli business gap

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Young Arab and Jewish entrepreneurs were given a boost this week when the Bankers Trust Israel Office donated \$30,000 to an international management training program run by the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development.

The program, called Building Business Bridges, is designed to create a group of business leaders from both the Jewish and Arab worlds who understand the needs and demands of both business sectors.

The project was initiated earlier this year by the Jewish-Arab center, the New Israel Fund and British retailer Marks and Spencer.

Nine young entrepreneurs from diverse fields such as computer software, food and advertising, were picked from hundreds of applicants to take part in this year's program. They study for 300 academic hours on subjects such as international business management, cross-cultural communications and entrepreneurial strategy. They then participate in a three-month management training pro-

gram at Marks & Spencer in London, before taking part in an internship with some of Israel's leading corporations. The program ends in spring 1999.

"These young people will lead our society in creating business ties across the barriers that hinder healthy economic relations between Jews and Arabs in Israel and the region," said Sarah Kreimer, codirector of the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development.

She added that recruitment for the second year of studies will start in February 1999.

"As a global corporation we recognize the importance of learning to manage in a multicultural environment," said Daniel Barkan, managing director of the Bankers Trust Israel Office. "We hope this program will strengthen the fabric of the Israeli business community and advance the relations between the two cultures."

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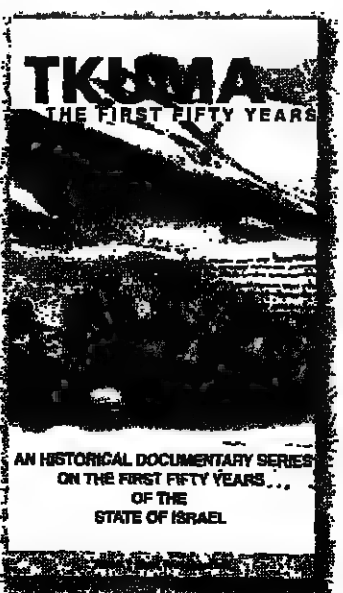
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שכר מן הארץ

Wen's Zen not helping Arsenal's bad karma

If you think you have got problems, think of poor old Arsene Wenger. In May, he was the king of kings after leading Arsenal to the double. On Sunday, after the club's home draw with Middlesbrough he was being subjected to the kind of media assassination normally reserved for people who mug old ladies on the bus.

Arsenal have had a poor run of results which has seen them dumped out of the European Champions League and losing ground on the Premiership leaders (although they still lie fourth). They have not won in seven games, failed to score in three of their last four Premiership games and have a crippling injury list with Denis Bergkamp, Marc Overmars and Tony Adams sidelined.

There have also been rumblings of discontent among the players.

At the Middlesbrough game, Wenger felt undoubtedly have noticed that fans were actually laughing at their team's inadequacies. But Wenger has seen it all before - after being sacked by French club Monaco, he went to manage in Japan where he became interested in Zen Buddhism. His approach to management at Highbury has always been non-confrontational and one of the most intriguing aspects of Arsenal's success last season was how his intelligence was seemingly transformed into the team's style of play as Arsenal got rid of their long-ball boring image.

On Sunday, Wenger let his guard slip a little by saying that the fans had been used to eating caviar every day, and the recent poor run meant they should prepare themselves for a few meals with sausages.

The fans, however, are angry not

so much with Wenger's style of management, but more with his reluctance to dip into a reported £30 million pot to buy the kind of talent which will keep Arsenal at the top. Patrick Kluitert, Dion Dublin, Frank and Roland De Boer, Nwanku Kanu and Stephane Chapuisat have all been linked with Arsenal, but decided not to come. Add to that list, the exit of Ian Wright to West Ham and you can see why followers are so upset.

In the old days being chairman of a football club was straightforward. The local butcher or solicitor would lob in a few hundred thousand and enjoy the trappings of prestige, leaving the manager and players to get on with the football.

Modern times reflect a different world as events at Everton have demonstrated. On Monday, Peter Johnson, the club chairman

London Calling



resigned after an acrimonious few days in which the sale of the club's star striker Duncan Ferguson to Newcastle went through without the knowledge of manager Walter Smith. Everton are reportedly £20 million in debt and the sale of Ferguson for £7 million was no doubt made with that debt in mind. Johnson's 68 per cent controlling stake is also for sale - the

man who made his fortune from food hampers can expect a seasonal bumper pack of £50 million from the sale.

Johnson's resignation was met with blanket approval from Everton fans who have been venting their anger at the Jersey-based millionaire for over a year. But the fact that he will be remaining at the club as a non-executive director continues to be a point of controversy. Bob Naylor, a spokesman for the Everton Supporters Club, told the *Daily Mail* that although Johnson's resignation was a step in the right direction "We won't rest until he has sold his shares and has gone from the club." In a way, the affair has little to do with money, and more to do with loyalty - Evertonians cannot accept that Johnson used to be a Liverpool season ticket holder and still has links with Anfield.

"Perth-etic" was how one tabloid newspaper described the England cricket team's performance in the second Test. Captain Alec Stewart, who has seen a few collapses in his 83 Tests, described the Perth fiasco as the worst England performance he has witnessed. On the first morning, those of us who set our alarms for the wee hours to catch the live broadcast thought it was a bad dream and went straight back to sleep with an image of balls and wickets flying.

But there may just be a bit of light at the end of the tunnel. Tomorrow, the English first-class counties will be voting on whether to adopt a first and second division county championship tier system. It looks like a 'yes' vote will ensure that from the year 2000 there will be promotion and relegation just like in football.

The change will inevitably mean less cricket, and like in Australia,

more competitive cricket. And maybe the next time England play a series down under, they will be more up to the task.

Not that the dismal performance seems to have dampened the enthusiasm of the hundreds of England fans who made the long haul to watch the series. The "Barmy Army," as they are affectionately known, have kept their spirits up by dancing round the boundary and even cheering the England players in the nets (seemingly the only place where they hit the ball well).

The most pleasing aspect of the defeat was the return to form of Graeme Hick and the debut of Surrey's Alex Tudor who was described as "genuinely quick" by Australian captain Mark Taylor. Hick, a one-match replacement for the injured Graham Thorpe, has canceled his return flight back to London.

Real Madrid win World Club Cup

TOKYO (Reuters) - Real Madrid won the World Club Cup final for the first time since the inaugural tournament in 1960 when they beat Vasco da Gama of Brazil 2-1 in an entertaining match yesterday.

The European champions went ahead after 26 minutes when Brazilian defender Naza, standing alone and in space, headed a Roberto Carlos cross into his own

net when it looked easier to clear.

The South American champions equalized after 57 minutes with an outstanding goal from Juninho who controlled a high clearance on the edge of the box with his left foot before lashing in with his right foot to give goalkeeper Bodo Illgner no chance.

Spanish international Raul clinched the match for the

Spaniards with an outstanding solo goal.

After being sent clear by Dutchman Clarence Seedorf, he wrong-footed two defenders and Vasco da Gama goalkeeper Carlos Germano to score seven minutes from time.

Real's victory was the fourth in succession by the European champions.

English newspapers slam squad on Test loss

LONDON (AP) - Newspapers lashed out yesterday after yet another humiliation for England's cricket team.

"Day England lost all credibility," said a blaring headline in *The Express*.

"That's the worst I have seen in 83 test matches," said *The Mirror*, quoting England captain Alec Stewart.

"One of our worst ever performances," echoed *The Sun*.

England's seven-wicket hammering by Australia Monday in the second Test of the Ashes series - England was bowled out for 112 in 39 overs on the opening day - again reminded the nation how far it has slipped in a game it invented.

Writing under a headline calling England "second-raters on cricket's world stage," *The Express* columnist James Lawton said the loss reflected deeper problems.

"It is not just the specter of another defeat which makes someone who cares for England's cricket legacy feel here like a man walking down Park Lane with holes in his shoes," he said.

"The grimness of this conclusion is that it may be that our cricket future is drifting beyond our own hands," he added.

He was referring to a suggestion from former Australia captain Ian Chappell that England may no longer rate five-Test status against Australia.

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Mr. Grinch is coming to town

As feel-good stories go, it's not exactly, "Santa Claus is coming to town."

He sees you trick-or-treating. He snarls at every media snake.

He knows how to cork a bat or two.

So you better steer clear for the Orioles' sake!

Who would have believed it? Charm City is now Belle-timore.

And the Orioles' best player is Mr. Grinch.

In 1979, the late Edward Bennett Williams bought the franchise for \$12 million. Two decades later, the

Orioles will pay Belle \$13 million a year.

Welcome, Prince Albert!

Bring your mighty scepter, and leave the rest of your baggage home.

Belle isn't a model citizen, but he's a model player. If he avoids trouble, he will be a \$65 million bargain.

Of course, if baseball people believed he would avoid trouble, more than one team would have bid on him, don't you think? The Chicago White Sox didn't want him. The Boston Red Sox didn't want him. No one but the Orioles wanted him, and the Orioles were scrambling.

The signing of Belle is a huge gamble, perhaps a huge mistake, a reflection of everything that is wrong with this once-proud franchise.

But for all Belle's, uh, quirks, one truth is inescapable.

The man can play.

"When he puts on a baseball uniform, there's no B.S. He goes 100 percent all the time," said Ed Farmer, the Chicago White Sox broadcaster, former major-league pitcher and Orioles scout from 1988 to '90.

"He won't take a day off. You have to absolutely coerce him into taking a DH role. You've got both iron men once you sign him. He is probably one of the most intense competitors I've ever seen."

And as a hitter? "He doesn't give up an at-bat," Farmer said.

"You make a mistake, he doesn't miss it. At Camden Yards, he might hit 75 home runs. Our ballpark cheated him out of at least 15 last year, and he hit 49. So that would have been 64."

"When he gets in the zone, he can put on the entire Oriole team on his back and carry them for a month or two. That's what he did for us last year. We didn't have Frank (Thomas) hit the way he had in the past. They didn't want to pitch to Belle, and he still killed them."

Belle, 32, leads the majors in home runs and RBI the past eight seasons. He owns a higher career slugging percentage than Mark McGwire. He hit .387 with 31 homers and 86 RBIs last season - after the All-Star break.

Love him or loathe him, he will make the Orioles compelling, in the way that great horror movies are compelling. Still, he deserves to be judged solely on his performance, as long as he acts responsibly on and off the field.

For \$65 million, you might expect leadership, marketing

potential and tireless community service, but let's not kid ourselves. With Belle, what you see is what you get. And what you see is a guy who plays hard every day.

"If the fans are coming to see a politician, they ain't going to get it," Farmer said. "He's going to be a person they'll want to embrace. They'll do the embracing. But he ain't going to do no hugging."

Who needs it? The only way to tolerate pro sports today is to distance yourself emotionally. Orioles fans booed Belle in the

'96 Division Series, and Cleveland fans booed Roberto Alomar. Naturally, all that will reverse now.

Eddie Murray shared Belle's desire for privacy, and Orioles fans loved him. Then again, that comparison might not be valid. Murray's most controversial act - his refusal to speak to the media - is the least of Belle's problems.

The good news is, Belle was on mostly good behavior in his two seasons with the White Sox. Not counting his suspensions - the last of which was June 21, 1996 - he has missed only three games in the past five years.

Take a day off? Sometimes, he won't even take first base.

"Not when he's zoned in," Farmer said. "(Dave) Burba hit him last year. The ball glanced off his shoulder and hit him in the chin."

And he refused to go to first. Then he hit a shot into the gap in left-center for a double.

Controlled fury. It will be a welcome sight at Camden Yards.

"He's very quiet before games," Farmer said. "He likes to play cards with a select group or play Nintendo. If he makes out or hits a home run, whenever he gets the chance, he'll write it down in his little book - who's pitching, what the count is, what the situation is. Nothing is left to chance."

What about his twin brother, Terry, his supposed better half?

"If he had Terry's personality, maybe he wouldn't be the player he is," Farmer said. "Terry is just a great guy. Albert never lets his guard down. This is only conjecture on my part, but I think that he thinks that if he lets his guard down, he's not going to perform as well."

And make no mistake, Belle will perform. He has hit 321 career homers, and likely will reach 500 as an Oriole. He's also a doubles machine, and even in an off-year, he's good for 100 RBIs.

Orioles coaches noted his improvement in left field last season, and Farmer said, "He's a better outfielder than everybody thinks."

Belle probably is better suited to play the smaller right field at Camden Yards, especially if the Orioles re-sign B.J. Surhoff. But who's going to ask him to move? That should be the least of the Orioles' problems.

Hold your breath, Belle-timore.

Mr. Grinch is coming to town.

(The Baltimore Sun)

MY CALL

By KEN ROSENTHAL

By HEATHER CHAIT

The fiery temper of Croatia's tennis star, Goran Ivanisevic, was thoroughly tamed yesterday by over one hundred young adoring tennis players.

Ivanisevic was the epitome of acquiescence and good humor as he exchanged strokes, autographs and words of encouragement with the country's top junior players at Jerusalem's tennis center.

Watched by a doting crowd, Ivanisevic fielded balls for two hours, showing his antics by hitting shots between his legs and returning balls with his foot before he settled down to a serious match with top Jerusalem player Andy Ram.

Ivanisevic won 4-1.

The 27-year-old, currently ranked 12th in the world, was invited to Israel by Jerusalem's municipality to share in the 50th anniversary celebrations. His first visit here coincided with the city's 3,000th year activities when he played an exhibition match with Amos Mansdorf.

"I came to give these kids a chance," he said yesterday, "and a few of them know how to hit the ball well. They just need to work hard."

When asked which player's style he admired, Ivanisevic, lapsing into his more familiar stubbornness, responded saying "Nobody." He also deflected the issue of his questionable mental approach to the game, saying, "It's fine now, adding that his ranking should and will be higher if I continue playing like now."

His father, Srđjan, was also positive about the future of local tennis.

"A pattern of 10 good years is often followed by 10 bad but some player, an extra special person, will appear here and attract players. Every nation has one," he said.

Earlier in the day Ivanisevic held a clinic with some 100 coaches, discussing his own training program and career secrets. "He stressed that if a player is not a fighter, he has no chance today," said Gabi Galer, a coach at the Mt. Scopus tennis center in Jerusalem.

Also in Ivanisevic's entourage was 17-year-old Yelena Kostanic, the world's fourth ranked junior from Croatia who won this year's junior Australian Open.

For Amir Weinstein from Rehovot, the country's top player in his category, 12 years, it was a day to remember. "He said 'very good' to me after we hit and he shook my hand," the youth said, smiling from ear to ear.

Belle signs with Baltimore

BALTIMORE (Reuters) - Baseball bad boy Albert Belle has flown Chicago's coop to join the Birds after entering the growing \$13 million dollar club by signing a five-year deal with the Baltimore Orioles.

Slugging outfielder Belle signed a deal reported to be worth \$65 million, taking advantage of a contract clause with the White Sox that allowed him to become a free agent since his 1998 salary of \$10 million was no longer among the top three in baseball.

"I weighed all my options and thought Baltimore was my best option," said Belle. "You look at the way the organization is headed, they definitely want to go all out to win."

Belle's deal follows on the heels of con-

tracts given to first baseman Mo Vaughn by the Anaheim Angels, catcher Mike Piazza by the New York Mets, and pitcher Randy Johnson by the Arizona Diamondbacks that broke the \$13 million salary mark.

Last season, Belle batted .328 with 48 doubles, 49 homers and 152 RBI. After July 1, the slugger really turned it on, batting .383 with 32 homers and 89 RBI in 81 games.

Belle also once again gives Baltimore bragging rights to the best current Iron Man streak.

Belle has played in 334 straight games and took over as the active leader in consecutive games played when Orioles third baseman Cal Ripken Jr. ended his amazing record streak at 2,632 games in September.

Any worries over Belle concern his volatile temper.

The 32-year-old Belle creates nearly as much havoc off the field as he does on it. During his career, he has verbally and physically attacked reporters, admitted to gambling on football games and chased down child pranksters with his sport utility vehicle on Halloween.

While with the Indians, Belle smashed the clubhouse stereo that belonged to teammate Kenny Lofton, threw a baseball at a photographer and unleashed an obscenity-laden tirade at a television reporter during the 1995 World Series.

On Halloween in 1995, Belle drove after kids who threw eggs at his house in suburban Cleveland. In early 1997, he admitted to

betting as much as \$40,000 on NFL and college basketball games but denied ever betting on baseball.

In July, he was charged with domestic battery. Those charges later were dropped.

Last year, the Orioles had a payroll of \$72 million but came up short on the field with a 79-83 record and a fourth-place finish in the American League East.

They have allowed second baseman Roberto Alomar, outfielder Eric Davis and pitcher Alan Mills to leave via free agency, clearing some money to chase Belle.

Belle is the second free agent signed by new Orioles general manager Frank Wren, who took over for Pat Gillick after the season. Baltimore signed reliever Mike Timlin to a four-year, \$16 million deal last month.

Ivanisevic charms admirers in Jerusalem



Goran Ivanisevic shakes hands with a young fan at Jerusalem's tennis center yesterday.

(Brian Henderson)

Israel has tough game against Denmark tonight

By ELI GROWER

After Israel's victory over Ukraine on Saturday night, a win tonight against Denmark at Yad Eliahu (to be broadcast live at 20:35 on Channel 1) would officially clinch a spot at the European Championships in France, to take place in the summer of 1999.

The top two teams from each of

the five groups automatically qualify for the championships, along with the four best third-place teams. A victory tonight would clinch second place.

First the good news: If Sunday's game revealed anything, it's that the Israelis would have won in Minsk last Wednesday night had Doron Sheffer been healthy. The bad news: They would have lost on

Saturday night without him.

But it doesn't have to be that way. Israel's guard rotation is capable of competing with Europe's finest, and Sheffer, Guy Goodes and Amir Katz should certainly dominate their Dutch opponents.

The problems begin in the frontcourt - historically Israel's Achilles heel. With Tomer Steinhauer, Nadav Henefeld and

an ineffective Gur Shelef, the Israelis could have trouble with the Dane's two biggest stars, Michael Andersen (2.13 meters), who plays for AEK Athens, and Mikkel Larsen (2.07), a member of the Italian Siena club. When Israel faced Denmark last year, neither was available during Israel's 19-point win in Frederiksberg. But tonight, while the backcourt provides the

offense, Steinhauer and Henefeld will have to be at the top of their defensive games.

	W	L	T	Pts
Spain	7	0	0	14
Israel	5	2	2	12
England	3	4	0	10
Belarus	3	4	0	10
Ukraine	2	5	0	9
Denmark	1	6	0	8

Local golf

Richard Fogelson and Devora Shur led the A and B divisions of the individual stableford tournament at Caesarea's golf course with scores of 37 and 40 respectively but the day's triumph belonged to Jules Cuburnek with his 45 in the C division.

Behind Fogelson was Clive Josset with 36 and Leslie Benamir with 35.

Second in the B division was Hanan Eshed with 39 points and Ephraim Katzman was third with 38.

Behind Cuburnek's handsome score were Dudley Kessel and Faith Spector on 38 but Kessel's better back nine gave him the advantage.

In the Saturday KC two best ball stableford competition the team of Dan Ronen, Bill Haas, Tuvit Gresaro and Charley Scheibel were first with 18 better than Ido Kaznelnboegen. Aviv Levi, Jeff Strubel and Roz Brodie.

Heather Chait

Holyfield says fight against Lewis will be 'easy'



Evander Holyfield

(AP)

puncher than the American.

Furthermore, Lewis said the long delay in arranging the fight has been a mistake by Holyfield because it allowed the Briton to become a better fighter.

Lewis, who will receive about \$8 million, would not reveal specifically how he has improved.

Instead, in his typically oblique style, he said: "I was like a piece of meat in a pot cooking nice and slowly." But Lewis did say he would be able to counter anything Holyfield tried in the scheduled 12-round fight. He said he expected Holyfield to try various tactics, including the relentless bawling of his earlier career.

"It doesn't matter. Evander Holyfield hasn't seen nothing like me and my power," said Lewis.

Lewis, born in England of a Jamaican mother and the winner of a gold medal in the 1988 Olympics for Canada, acknowledged he is not well-known in the US and is "just waiting to prove everyone wrong. All those reporters making negative comments about me."

Holyfield, who ran through the long history of boxing politics that have kept the two from fighting, brushed off Lewis's size, saying, "You don't judge a businessman

by his height. It's the smart guy who will prevail."

"Lennox Lewis is a guy that wants to knock you out. But he never had anybody put pressure on him. I'll hit him when I want to hit him. The question is how durable he is," said Holyfield, who will be paid at least \$20 million.

"Either I'm gonna knock him out good, or I'm gonna knock him out bad," he added.

Holyfield, who thoroughly beat Mike Tyson in stopping him in the 11th round of their first fight two years ago and won again in June 1997 when Tyson bit off part of his ear and was disqualified, said: "I can never tell you how good I am. But I can tell you I've been better than my opponents."

Holyfield was less than stellar in beating Vaughn Bean in a decision in September and Lewis seemed lethargic and stiff in winning a decision over Croatian Zeljko Mavrovic the same month.

Canadiens beat Kings in battle of underdogs

MONTREAL (AP) - With two struggling teams facing each other, the winner needed a little luck.

Montreal center Saku Koivu was credited with the game's opening goal, at the 6:17 mark of the second period. But it was Los Angeles defenseman Sean O'Donnell who actually steered Koivu's rebound into his own net.

That started the Canadiens to a 3-1 victory Monday night as Montreal snapped a three-game losing streak.

"They needed a break - they're struggling - and they got it," O'Donnell said. "It just continues for us." It was the only NHL game played Monday.

Los Angeles (6-14-3) has only managed to accumulate five points (two wins and a tie) in its last 14 games and has lost eight of its last

nine.

Despite sliding face down toward the net, Koivu managed to direct a shot towards the Kings' goal that seemed to catch Los Angeles goalie Stephane Fiset by surprise. Fiset made a toe save, but O'Donnell's stick directed the puck into the open side to Fiset's left.

"I made the save and Sean O'Donnell tried just to put the puck in the corner, but it hit his stick and went right in," Fiset said. "It's getting frustrating for us because we aren't getting any of the bounces."

Los Angeles 0 0 1-1
Montreal 3 1 0-2-3
First Period-None. Second Period-1, Montreal, Koivu 4, 8:17 (pp). Third Period-2, Montreal, Savage 6 (Hoglund, Weinrich), 4:22.3, Murray 10 (Bodger, Sumpster), 10:27. Shots on goal-Los Angeles 8-5-8-19, Montreal 10-13-10-33. Goalies-Los Angeles, Fiset, Montreal, A-20,416.

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	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	13	7	1	27	54	49
Philadelphia	11	7	4	26	62	48
Pittsburgh	10	6	5	25	63	55
N.Y. Islanders	10	13	0	20	59	64
N.Y. Rangers	6	9	7	19	56	59

Northeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	13	9	2	28	74	68
Boston	10	7	5	25	60	43
Buffalo	10	5	4	24	57	40
Ottawa	10	7	3	23	61	50
Montreal	8	12	2	18	52	65

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	11	10	3	25	62	57
Florida	8	8	5	21	50	55
Washington	7	11	3	17	49	62
Tampa Bay	6	14	2	14	48	83

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Central Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	13	8	0	26	73	50
St. Louis	9	6	5	23	57	47
Nashville	9	12	1	19	53	68
Chicago	6	14	3	15	48	82

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Edmonton	12	9	1	25	68	55
Vancouver	9	13	1	19	66	71
Colorado	8	11	2	18	53	62
Calgary	8	13	2	18	63	70

Pacific Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	14	2	2	30	53	26
Dallas	12	4	3	27	53	39
Anaheim	8	10	4	20	50	53
Los Angeles	6	14	3	15	50	66
San Jose	5	11	5	15	49	56

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Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Leeds,
Newcastle
discuss
Batty deal

LONDON (Reuters) - Leeds and Newcastle officials are in talks over a deal to bring England international David Batty back to Elland Road.

The Newcastle midfielder waived his right to pick up an estimated £800,000 in signing on fees by requesting a transfer last week. Leeds tabled a bid of around £4 million on Monday but Newcastle reportedly want more for the player who won the championship with Leeds in 1992.

Newcastle chairman Freddie Shepherd said: "We are not giving players away, and David Batty is a current England international." Leeds manager David O'Leary is waiting for the go ahead from Newcastle.

SCOREBOARD

SOCCER - Yesterday's League Cup quarter-finals: Sunderland 3, Luton 0; Wimbledon 2, Chelsea 1. FA Cup first round replays: Notts County 3, Hendon 0 (Notts County at home to Wigan).

49ers rout Giants 31-7

Defensive tackle Bryant Young suffers serious leg injury



SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - Jerry Rice complained about the San Francisco 49ers' erratic play, and offered to jump start the offense.

Instead, it was Terrell Owens who provided the spark. Owens caught a 79-yard touchdown pass from Steve Young and Garrison Hearst ran for 166 yards in 20 carries to go over 1,000 yards rushing for the second straight season as San Francisco beat the New York Giants 31-7 Monday night for their 15th straight regular-season home win.

The victory clinched a 16th straight winning season for the 49ers (9-3) and kept them a game behind first-place Atlanta in the NFC West with four remaining. But the win was costly. The 49ers lost star defensive tackle Bryant Young midway through the fourth quarter to a right leg injury. Replays showed the leg bent backwards as he collided with linebacker Ken Norton Jr. as they closed in for a tackle. He was wheeled off the field on a gurney.

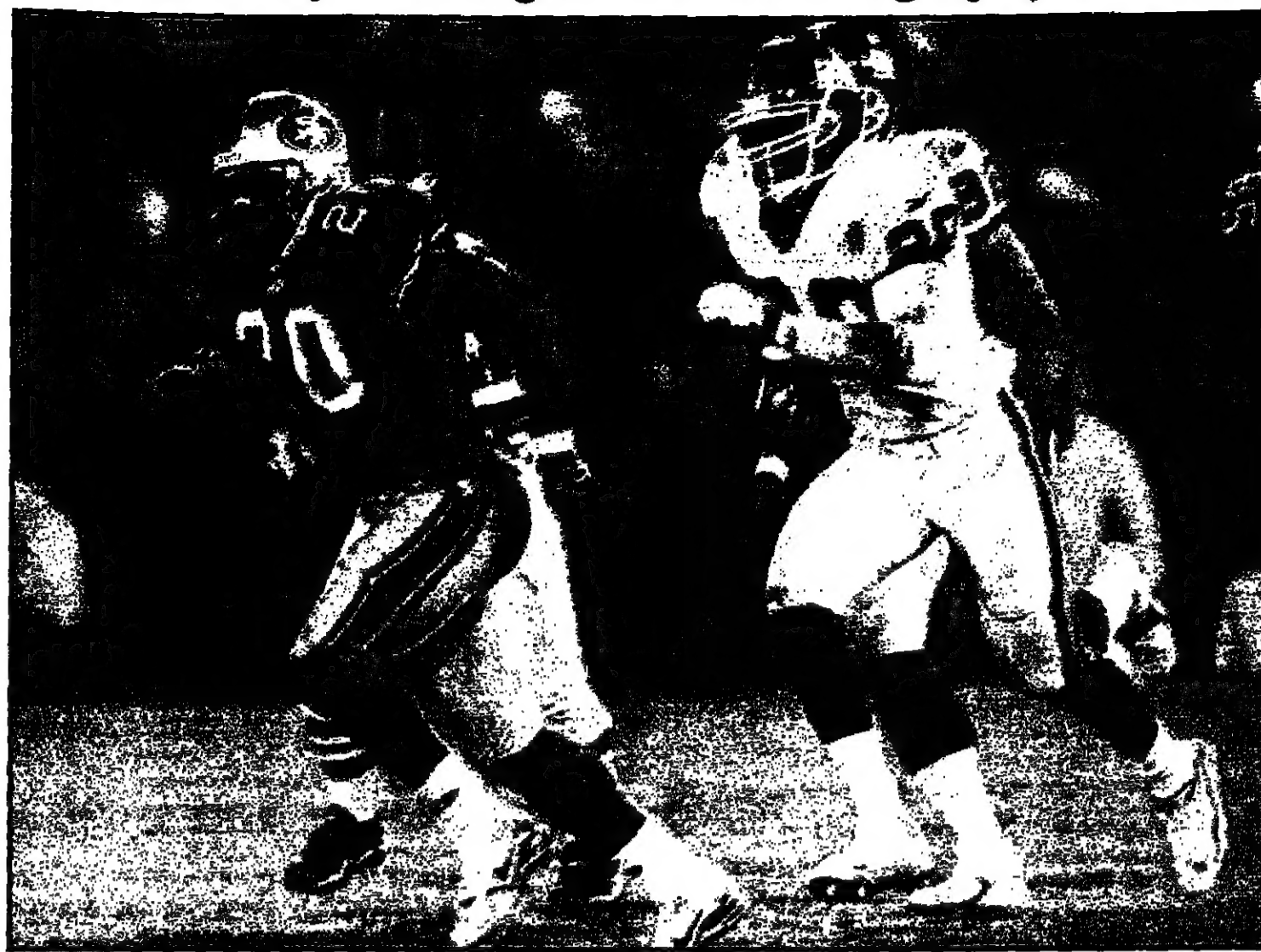
The Giants (+8) started fast but then faded, much like they have this season after winning the NFC East last year. Kent Graham had a 48-yard completion to Ike Hilliard on their first play and three plays later, Gary Brown bolted 11 yards up the middle for a touchdown.

New York, with the second-worst offensive ranking in the league, couldn't sustain its advantage against a 49ers team that fell behind for the seventh time in nine games.

Owens, who finished with five catches for 140 yards, turned a short flat pass from Young into a score to pull into a 7-all tie with 2:39 left in the first period.

The fleet Owens, now perhaps the 49ers' most dangerous receiver, blew past Conrad Hamilton near the line of scrimmage and pulled free of Sam Gaines' grasp at the 30. Suddenly, he was running free down the left sideline and into the end zone.

After being held to three catches for 27 yards in last week's 31-20 win against New Orleans, an exas-



CAN'T CATCH ME - San Francisco 49ers' running back Garrison Hearst pulls away from NY Giants' safety Sam Gaines. (Reuters)

perated Rice said he felt left out of the offense and implied San Francisco could reverse its sluggish starts by throwing more passes his way. He finished Monday night's game with three catches for 25 yards.

The 49ers opened the game with a no-huddle for the first time this season and Young went to Rice several times early. Near the end of San Francisco's third series, Young tried to force the ball to a double-covered Rice near the goal-line and Carlton Gray knocked it away.

Owens' touchdown reversed a sputtering offense that had led to just two missed field goals by Wade Richey.

But the 49ers didn't take the lead for good until they put together a 90-yard drive that Young finished with a 1-yard scoring pass to Irv Smith for a 14-7 halftime lead.

San Francisco added another score on Terry Kirby's 7-yard run midway through the third quarter and Richey kicked a 39-yard field with 10:07. Then Hearst sealed things with a 70-yard TD run with 3:09 left.

N.Y. Giants 7 0 0 0-7
San Francisco 7 0 7 10-31
First Quarter: NY-Brown 71 run (Oakland kick), 9:21. SF-Owens 79 pass from Young (Richey kick), 2:59. Second Quarter: SF-Smith 1 pass from Young (Richey kick), 2:28. Third Quarter: SF-Kirby 7 run (Richey kick), 7:01. Fourth Quarter: SF-FD Richey 38, 10:07. SF-Hearst 70 run (Richey kick), 3:09. A-N-A

AMERICAN CONFERENCE							NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA	East	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Miami	8	4	0	.667	231	168	Dallas	8	4	0	.667	325	217
N.Y. Jets	6	6	0	.500	231	168	San Francisco	9	3	0	.750	311	247
Buffalo	6	6	0	.500	268	242	N.Y. Giants	8	4	0	.667	300	251
New England	7	5	0	.583	262	234	Washington	3	9	0	.250	240	337
Indianapolis	2	10	0	.167	208	334	Philadelphia	2	10	0	.167	198	277
Central	9	3	0	.750	311	247	Central	9	3	0	.750	311	247
Jacksonville	7	5	0	.583	224	218	X-Minnesota	11	1	0	.917	394	220
Pittsburgh	6	6	0	.500	240	237	Green Bay	8	4	0	.667	314	240
Tennessee	5	7	0	.417	205	247	Detroit	5	7	0	.417	244	263
Baltimore	2	10	0	.167	197	321	Tampa Bay	5	7	0	.417	235	250
Cincinnati	2	10	0	.167	197	321	Chicago	3	9	0	.250	197	275
West	12	0	0	1.000	401	204	West	10	2	0	.833	325	214
X-Denver	7	5	0	.583	209	244	X-Atlanta	9	3	0	.750	354	248
Oakland	6	6	0	.500	235	310	San Francisco	5	7	0	.417	216	263
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	238	259	New Orleans	5	7	0	.417	250	207
Kansas City	5	7	0	.417	181	247	St. Louis	3	9	0	.250	207	285
San Diego	5	7	0	.417	181	247	Carolina	2	10	0	.167	236	322
x-clinched division title							x-clinched playoff berth						